

# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



*Fall 2005*

## World War II Panel Highlights Reunion

The personal testimony of Philippine Scouts who defended against the Japanese onslaught brought the history of their heroic resistance to life for the large audience attending the panel discussion on World War II in the Philippines. Panel members described the desperate courage of combat, the horrors of the Bataan Death March, Camp O'Donnell, the Hell Ships and slave labor, as well as the dangers and triumphs of guerrilla warfare. For two hours, five decorated combat veterans—Col. Mel Rosen, Col. John Olson, Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey, Major Fred Foz and Capt. Menandro Parazo—recited their eyewitness testimony and

fielded questions from a standing-room-only audience on the final day of the reunion. Following the panel, author Chris Schaefer held a discussion/book signing on his newly-published “Bataan Diary: An American Family in WWII, 1941-45”.

The panel discussion was one of several highlights of our twenty-first annual reunion held May 27 and 28 in San Mateo. Aably organized by Cion Rael and Evelyn Guiang of our Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter, many thought it was the most successful ever held. Nearly 200, including sixteen former Philippine Scouts, turned out for the final banquet making it one of the best attended in recent years. Newly arrived Philippine Consul General, the Hon. Rowena Mendoza Sanchez, ably delivered the keynote address. The entertainment at the banquet was outstanding, featuring vocalist Christine Adiaz, vocalist/composer Lionel Tanner. The very professional Karik-

tan Dance Company of Concord, California directed by Polly Herrera, also performed a well-choreographed medley of Filipino dances.

The business meeting approved amendments to the bylaws, elected Major Fred Foz as our new president, reelected several other officers for new terms, and approved memorial funds for our late presidents Larry Pangan and Brig. Gen. Royal Reynolds, through endowments supporting our library project and newsletter. Details on contributing to these funds will be provided separately. Finally, honorary life memberships were awarded to Ms. Gloria Planté and Fort Sam Houston Museum Director John Manguso, both of whom have been important supporters of the Society.



*Consul General  
Rowena Mendoza  
Sanchez*

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*Eight former Philippine Scouts at the May 2005 reunion.*

*From Left to Right:  
David Tejada  
Anthony de Castro  
Del Pahed  
Jose Aquino  
Menandro Parazo  
Mel Rosen  
Fred Foz  
Ed Ramsey*

## Editor's Comments

At the behest of Gloria Planté, Brigadier General Royal Reynolds' long-time companion and executor of his estate, the funds he left the Society, along with the donations to his memorial fund, will be used to support the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society newsletter.

In recognition for this generosity, beginning with this issue, a special column entitled *The General's Corner* will publish articles reflecting the heroic history of the Philippine Scouts. This issue will feature two pieces, one from the (Philippine) Inquirer and the second an auto-biographical essay by Major Urbano Quijance, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS). Future issues will include essays by and about other former Scouts and Society members who fought in World War II. This ongoing column is intended to further educate our members and the public concerning the noble heritage of honor, sacrifice and bravery exempli-

fying those legendary warriors who proudly wore the U.S. Army uniform as Philippine Scouts.

Larry Pangan's family has asked that funds given in his memory be used to support the Philippine Scouts Library Project, organized by Cion Rael on behalf of the PSHS National. Larry was a staunch supporter of this project during his service as our National President. The eventual placement of a substantial collection of books and taped interviews in a San Francisco-area library also will further the educational purposes of our Society.

**Anyone wishing to donate in support of either project should make out a check or money order to "PSHS", write the name of the project on the memo line, and mail to National Treasurer Nora Warren at the address shown on the back of this newsletter.**

Our just-completed twenty-first reunion was indeed a memorable gathering, due in a large part to the panel of former Scouts whose eyewitness accounts of what happened in the Philippines brought home to all of us in a very personal way the depth of their sacrifice to preserve freedom in this country and the Philippines. This panel was a first for our gatherings and it is hoped that, whenever possible, future reunions will include similar events keeping alive that heritage.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to our First Vice President, Senator John Patterson, who took over the reigns as President with the untimely passing of Larry Pangan and so ably managed the Society until the election of Major Fred Foz as our new President.



Mike Houlahan, Editor

### Advertising Rates

Our newsletter advertising rates are as follows:

Full page: \$100  
 Half page: \$55  
 Quarter page: \$30  
 Business card: \$15

Our current circulation is slightly over 500 copies per issue. For advertising placement or additional information, please contact newsletter editor Mike Houlahan through our website or at:

J. M. Houlahan  
 Editor, PSHS Newsletter  
 6774 Lakeside Circle West  
 Worthington, OH 43085

## Newsletter

### Donations & Subscriptions

Our Philippine Scouts Heritage Society newsletter fund already has received generous donations totaling almost \$3,000. Sixty percent is from the Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr. Memorial Fund and the remainder directly to the newsletter. I'd like to thank the following twenty individuals for their generosity: **Ms. Gloria Planté, Malcolm Decker, Col. Mel Rosen, Sen. John Patterson, Col. John Olson, Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey, Ed Lawton, Major Fred Foz, Dr. Fred Yeager, Celso Aurelio, Zosimo Guiang, Nora Warren, Maria Capili, Roy Troxel, Lt. Joe Aquino, Chris Schaefer, Felipe Fernandez, MSG Michael Woods, Winnie Carreon Houlahan and Robert Seccombe.**

Annual subscription may be obtained by non-members for \$4.00 and overseas subscribers for \$5.50. Electronic subscriptions are available for \$2. Donation and subscription checks should be made out to the "PSHS" and mailed to the address listed below:

J. M. Houlahan  
 Editor, PSHS Newsletter  
 6774 Lakeside Circle West  
 Worthington, OH 43085

## National President's Letter

My greetings go out to all of you members and friends of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. As your new president, I will try my level best to serve you and the Society during my short term in office. There are a few things to address during this term and I will be working hard to develop a comprehensive agenda for our next business meeting and reunion. I will be calling on several of you to assist me with this endeavor.

We will continue to reach out to our younger generation of today for their support to maintain the rich heritage of the Philippine Scouts.

We will hold our annual reunion to celebrate, honor and remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. We also

wish to establish good relationships with veterans and defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, and other fronts during WWII to share our common values.

I also send a special thank you to everyone who worked hard to make our reunion a success. Two members of the Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter stand out in this regard. Cion Rael and Evelyn Guiang performed magnificently in spearheading the GGBAC sponsorship of the reunion and have earned the gratitude of all those attending.

Aloha and Mabuhay to all.

Fred Foz  
National President



Major Fred Foz, PSHS President

## First Vice-President's Letter

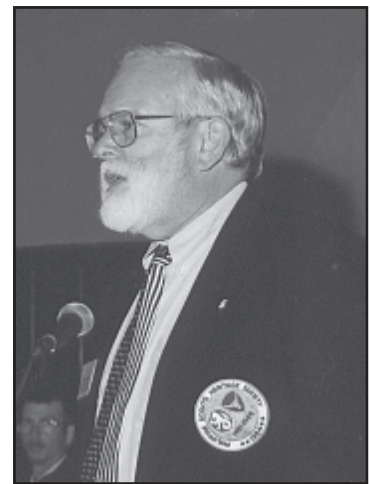
My tenure during most of the period covered by this newsletter was as interim president of the Society. After the sad and untimely death of President Larry Pangan last November, I took over until we elected a new President during our reunion and annual meeting this past May. We are honored that Frederic Foz has agreed to serve as the fifth President of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. Fred served with the 45th Infantry Regiment (Philippine Scouts), retired as a Major in the U.S. Army and became a very successful businessman in Hawaii.

It was a pleasure to turn over the reins to Fred. He was sworn in as the Society's President at our Reunion's con-

cluding banquet by The Honorable Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez, the Philippine Consul General in San Francisco. We are fortunate to have Fred in this position and I know he will do a terrific job.

Speaking about the reunion, we owe Cion Rael and her team a huge vote of thanks for organizing the May 27th and 28th reunion at the Radisson Villa Hotel in San Mateo, California. Anyone who has experience with this kind of event knows that it takes an incredible amount of work, much of it behind the scenes to guarantee success.

See *First Vice-President* Page 4



John A. Patterson, 1st Vice-President  
Photo: David Rosen

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First Vice-President From Page 3

And successful the reunion was, whether speaking of the logistics arrangements by Cion or her organizing a tour of San Francisco or the schedule of events such as the outstanding World War II panel in which several of our former Scouts discussed their experiences and answered questions from a large and enthusiastic audience. The reunion ended with a bang at Saturday night's banquet, which was well-attended, with good food and superb entertainment.

Other highlights:

• As a result of a Committee formed to review the Society's financial and management structure, Mike Houlahan, the Committee's Secretary and the Society's Public Relations Officer and the PSHS Newsletter Editor, drafted By-Law revisions that were given preliminary approval by the Committee and the Society's Board of Officers. They were formally approved at the PSHS General Meeting on Saturday, May 28, 2005. This was a sizeable task that will strengthen the Society's future administrative and financial practices.

• The Society formally approved the creation of the Larry Pangan Memorial Fund in support of the PSHS library which is being spearheaded by Cion Rael, President of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter. A memorial fund in General Royal Reynolds name was also approved. It will support the PSHS Newsletter which in the future will include a "General's Corner" in honor of General Reynolds, the Society's first President.

• We granted honorary membership in the Society to Gloria Planté, long-time supporter and executor of General Reynolds' estate. The estate has contributed generously to the memorial fund in the General's name as noted above. Ms. Planté has said that the General always considered his service with the Scouts as a highlight of his career. And it was a very distinguished career.

• We have also granted honorary membership to John Manguso, Curator and Director of the U.S. Army's Museum at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. The Museum is the official Army repository for all artifacts and memorabilia related to the Philippine Scouts. Mr. Manguso

has been a long-time supporter of the Society and on frequent occasions has made the Museum's facilities available to the Society. He has also provided displays and exhibits for our reunions, the Society's Centennial Celebration and other events around the country. We couldn't have a better friend than John Manguso.

Finally, I'd like to make one last comment. The reunion was not only a terrific success but it was a splendid place to see the camaraderie and blending of generations in honor of the Philippine Scouts, extraordinary warriors we must never forget.

There may be other things that I've missed, but these are the highlights that stick in my mind. Again, congratulations to Fred Foz, the Society's new President and my thanks to all who eased my tenure as interim president.



John Alexander Patterson  
First Vice-President

## Website News

It has been three years since our Philippine Scouts Heritage Society website was launched. The number of visitors now is above 14,200—more than a fifty percent increase in just six months.

The same kind of usage escalation can be seen on our message board, where visitors can post information and opinion on various subjects relating to the Philippine Scouts. More than 200 questions have been posted and over 570 comments recorded. You are invited to visit the PSHS website [www.philippine-scouts.org](http://www.philippine-scouts.org) and share your own thoughts or questions.

Our photo section has been expanded and a new bibliography page has been

added, with links to two very extensive bibliographies.

The first is a comprehensive, partially-annotated bibliography compiled by **Rod Hall**, which lists over 500 books (and a few articles) on Manila and the Philippines during WWII. Mr. Hall was held by the Japanese in Santo Tomas Internment Camp in his early teens and now lives in England.

The second is a WWII bibliography totaling about 130 titles compiled by **Waldette Cueto**, curator of the American Historical Collection at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

We continue to welcome **queries** concerning former Scouts or **answers** to

questions posted on the Message Board or Exchange page. We also will consider appropriate and **original short articles or vignettes** for posting on our website or including in our newsletter.

The website also is useful for **research** purposes. The exchanges page lists research projects and requests. The Resources page has links to other websites containing useful information and to U.S. government sources of information on former Scouts and on benefits available to them.

Thank you for your support!

Christa Houlahan - Webmaster



## Major Fred Foz, New PSHS President

Major Fred Foz, newly elected as our fifth National President, is a former Philippine Scout in the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS), who served in the U.S. Army from 1939 until his retirement in 1961. Initially drafted into the Philippine Army, following basic training, Fred was accepted into the Scouts, experienced the intense fighting on Bataan, and then survived the Death March and imprisonment at Camp O'Donnell. After four months in O'Donnell and suffering from dysentery, beri beri and malaria, he was released by the Japanese. After a period recuperating, he returned to his home in Dingras, Ilocos Norte and helped organize a guerrilla group led by his brother. (This group, initially armed almost entirely with bolos, was part of the much larg-

er guerrilla network headed by Col Russell Volckmann.)

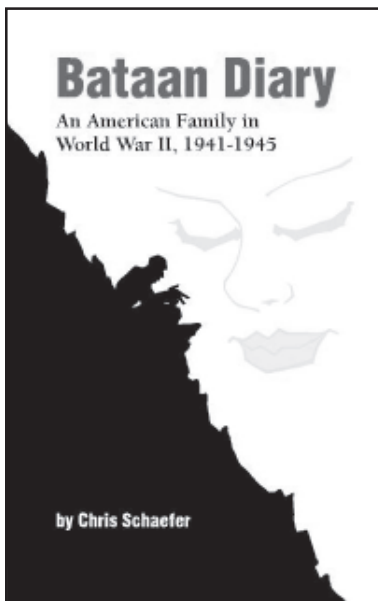
In February, 1944, his group attacked the local Constabulary headquarters, killing a number of the Japanese-sponsored puppet police and seizing a supply of firearms and ammunition. In the following months, the Japanese launched a campaign to eradicate the guerrillas, which resulted in heavy casualties among the guerrillas and the civilian population in Ilocos Norte. The Foz family home was burned and his father tortured, which may have hastened the father's death shortly following the war.

In 1946, a year after Japan's surrender, Fred was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and transferred out of the Philippine Scouts. Earlier that same year he married Filma, whom he had met

while undergoing basic training at Fort McKinley. Later that year both became naturalized American citizens.

Fred was to remain in the U.S. Army until his retirement in 1961. He then became a businessman, establishing a trading company and a freight forwarding enterprise. Retiring again in 1981, he and Filma eventually moved to Honolulu, Hawaii where they now reside. Married for almost sixty years, Major and Mrs. Foz have five children and seven grandchildren.

For years Fred has remained active in Philippine-American and Philippine Scout activities. He was one of the founders of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter of the Scouts and served for several years as President of the Philippine-American Society of California.



### Bataan Diary: An American Family in World War II, 1941-1945 by Chris Schaefer

*"You have filled in a lot of gaps in my own knowledge of guerrilla operations in the Philippines—perhaps because you have managed to find sources of information unknown to me in the past twenty years."*

—Historian Bernard Norling, author of four books on World War II in the Philippines.

Follow the 70,000 men who fought America's first battle of World War II, less than half of whom survived. Experience the Battle of Bataan, the surrender, the Death March, the prison camps, and the lives of the few who joined the guerrillas. In *Bataan Diary*, the reader follows a survivor who faced down insurmountable odds; and experiences the incredible loyalty and fortitude of Filipino citizens who risked their own lives to help American soldiers in a time of terrible need. It is a true story, based on the wartime diaries of the two principal characters. The personal stories of several Philippine Scouts are included in *Bataan Diary*.

*"Your presentation of the things that happened on Bataan is powerfully done and makes good reading."*

—Colonel Edwin Ramsey, Philippine Scout, guerrilla commander, and author of *Lieutenant Ramsey's War*.

*"This book should be read because even in defeat there is meaning and our nation... needs people who will be inspired by the example and stories of the guerrillas in the Philippines..."*

—Edgar Wright III, son of Philippine Scout Edgar Wright Jr.

Purchase **Bataan Diary**, at Amazon.com, Barnes & Nobel, or your local bookstore. \$14.95

And visit our website, <http://www.bataandiary.com>

## 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, instead of surrendering, 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.

In future issues, The Generals Corner will publish historical accounts of World War II in the Philippines. This issue contains two such articles: the first, an account of Philippine Scout **Sgt. Rosendo E. Musca's** experiences in the infantry and as a POW, was first published in the (Philippine) Enquirer; the second, a brief first person account by **Sgt. Urbano Quijance**, succinctly reports on his adventures in the 57th Infantry (PS), as a POW and as a guerrilla following the surrender.



Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr.

### **A Death March Survivor Narrates His Tale**

by Vicente Labro

A photograph and a complete set of false teeth never fail to bring back grim memories to a World War II veteran in Leyte about the Fall of Bataan and the infamous long march to the concentration camp.

Rosendo E. Musca, 86, a retired sergeant of the Philippine Scout, Army of the United States, treasures an old photograph showing him and his comrades in formation shortly after they surrendered on April 9, 1942 in Bataan to the Japanese Imperial Army.

It reminded him of the start of the most dreadful four days of his life and how he miraculously survived.

Musca says the picture was taken by a Japanese major who gave him the film's negative just before they started their long trek, the infamous Death March.

The Japanese photographer knew him because before the war broke out, the foreigner owned a photo studio in Tacloban, Leyte. Musca and some of his fellow students used to hang out in that studio. They never knew the name of the Japanese, but they called him Mr. Usa because his photo shop was named "USA Studio."

See *Death March Survivor* Page 7

### **Bataan, the Death March and Beyond: A Scout Remembers**

by Urbano Quijance

My name is Urbano Quijance. I was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 57th Infantry, Philippine Scouts, U.S. Army, years before the war broke out, and during and after WWII. When WWII broke out I was a Sergeant on special duty at our 57th Infantry Regimental Headquarters with the S-3, Plans & Training Section (or Operations Section). My primary duty was to assist the Regimental Operations officer (S-3) in receiving and disseminating messages between commanders (Regiment, Battalion and Companies) which included posting battle-field situations on the War Map.

The 57th Infantry was in Abucay, Bataan, assigned to defend by all means the highway entering Bataan peninsula from December 1942 until we were ordered on Army reserve in February 1942.

About the middle of March 1942, I was recommended for a battle-field commission as a 2nd Lt. That released me from special duty with the Regimental Headquarters and I returned to my unit, Co. B, 57th Infantry (PS), as Platoon Leader. In the first week of April 1942, we received orders to reinforce the front line. I was Point Commander of our Company, which was the advance-guard of our Battalion. When approaching the

See *A Scout Remembers* Page 9

**Death March Survivor From Page 6**

They used to share with the Japanese their snacks as they chatted with him. The Japanese could only speak in halting English and a few words in Waray.

“He secretly gave me a [single] negative of a film,” said Musca, referring to his meeting in Bataan with his acquaintance who was then already in full military uniform as an officer in the Japanese Imperial Army.

In a low voice and in halting Waray, the Japanese told Musca to keep the negative and to wait because he would later get him out of the difficult situation.

**Long march**

“We did not see each other anymore; I don’t know if he survived the war,” the veteran said. “But I believed he was going to help me.”

Musca, who was a corporal of the Philippine Scout, recalled that for four days, they had hiked without shelter, food and water, and their captors had treated them inhumanely. Their destination was the concentration camp in Capas, Tarlac.

“On our way, many died. They fell because of hunger and were bayoneted (to death by Japanese soldiers). We were physically abused,” he recalled. “We were treated like animals.”

But what he would never forget in that infamous march was when they passed a town where he saw clean water dripping from a faucet near the road. They had been used to drinking dirty water from streams.

Musca took the chance. He sneaked to the tap, filled his canteen with water, and sipped. But he had been seen. Suddenly, a Japanese soldier swung his rifle butt at the canteen as he was savoring the cool water.

**Reminder**

He fell with a bloodied face and lost all his teeth. “This, I couldn’t forget,” he said.

He acquired a set of false teeth after the Liberation in October 1944 and continues to use it up to this time—a reminder of that day, Musca said.

Musca could not also forget his “homecoming” in Tanauan from Manila in August 1943. When he arrived home, many people were there. It turned out that his mother, relatives and friends were celebrating the 40th day of the novena for his “death.”

Everybody was shocked to see him standing at the doorway. Then his mother and relatives started to cry “tears of joy,” he recalled.

His mother explained to him that a Bataan survivor had told her that Musca was among those who surrendered and that he had probably died during the Death March.

Musca was born on March 1, 1919 in Tanauan. He married Pomposa de Veyra in 1946, with whom he has nine children—five daughters and four sons. He now has 15 grandchildren.

**Houseboy-turned-soldier**

Sixty-six years ago, Musca left his widowed mother in search of a better life in Manila. He had just finished third year high school at the Tacloban Catholic School.

He was able to find a job as a houseboy of a German businessman and his English wife. While working, he continued his studies and finished high school at the Intramuros High School. He took up a Bachelor of Science in In-

dustrial Education course, major in Drafting, at the Philippine School of Arts and Trade.

With the war imminent, Musca’s employers had to leave for fear of their safety.

Musca decided to become a soldier. On Feb. 8, 1941, he and three of his friends enlisted with the Philippine Scout at Camp McKinley.

Musca was assigned to medical company headquarters. In May 1941, he was transferred to the 31st Infantry. Only nine other Filipinos were in the unit.

**Line of defense**

“When war broke out [on Dec. 8, 1941] I was assigned to apprehend Japanese nationals residing in Manila, like those (working in or operating) barber shops, restaurants, massage centers, candy factories and Mori bicycle stores,” he said. He was then with the infantry’s Military Police.

At midnight on Dec. 31, 1942, Musca said they were sent to Corregidor and Bataan for the defense of the country against the Japanese invaders. On their way, Japanese Zero planes bombed the ships, hitting some of them.

Musca said his unit stayed in Corregidor for about two weeks and moved to Bataan until the formal declaration of surrender on April 9, 1942. “We ran out of food and ammunition,” he said.

The unit, headed by a Major North, was stationed along Trail 37 in Bataan. It was here on that fateful day that he met the Japanese photographer.

Musca hid the film negative given to him between the pages of a diary that he kept.

*See Death March Survivor Page 8*

Death March Survivor From Page 7

"I believed that when he was in Tacloban he was a spy," he said of his Japanese friend.

Musca and the other surrenderees were imprisoned in Capas. In July 1942, his health worsened. Though his swollen gums already healed, his feet swelled due to beriberi. He was also suffering from dysentery and nose bleeding.

Freedom fighter

On Aug. 29, 1942, Musca was released from the concentration camp, but he could not walk. His comrades had to carry him by stretcher to the train station, where he was brought directly to the San Lazaro Hospital. He had ticks and smelled awful, he said.

Musca was discharged from the hospital in the third week of October 1942.

He stayed with his brother in Intramuros and had to regularly report to Japanese headquarters.

On Nov. 16, 1942, Musca again got ill and was brought back to the hospital. He only received first aid treatment as the hospital was then full of patients.

A private doctor treated him for malaria, beriberi, dysentery and cardiovascular diseases from November 1942 up to March 8, 1943. When he got well, he joined the guerrilla movement in Manila led by an American colonel.

When their leader was captured and killed by the Japanese, Musca decided to go home to Leyte.

"We traveled by paraw (native cargo boat) for four to five days, but only at night for fear that we might get caught

by the Japanese. When we arrived in Tacloban, we were inspected and I told the Japanese I was a student coming from Manila," Musca recalled.

Back to war

The officer did not believe him and slapped him. Luckily, a member of the Philippine Constabulary from Barugo town intervened, telling the Japanese that Musca could be telling the truth.

He took a tartanilla (horse-drawn carriage) to Tanauan, more than 20 km away.

In his hometown, Musca took precautions by sleeping in different houses, fearing the Japanese might discover that he was a member of the Philippine Scout.

See Death March Survivor Page 9

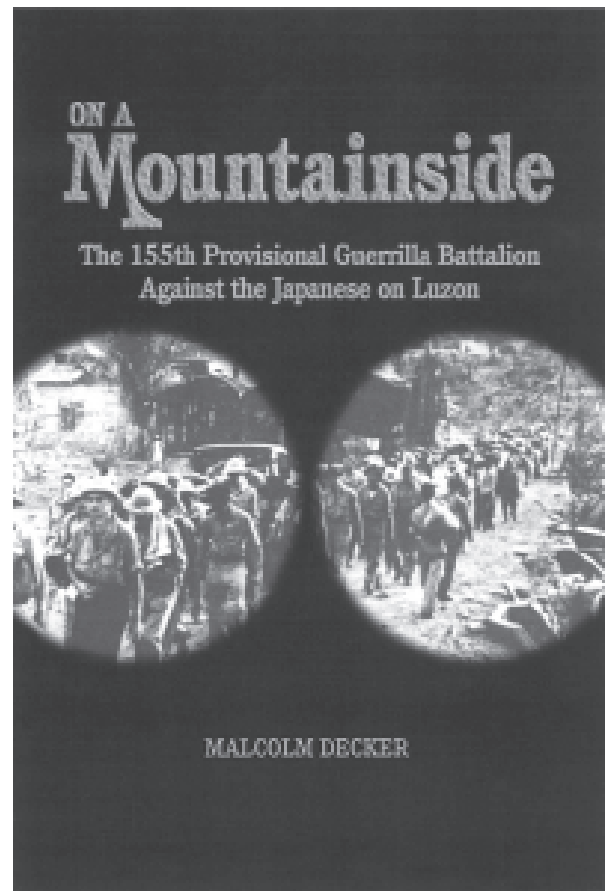
On A Mountainside by Malcolm Decker

Your book is superb and so fascinating. Once I started reading I could not put the book down.

-Evelyn Hobson, curator emeritus, Ernie Pyle Historical Site

Following the surrender of Filipino and American forces on Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines early in the fifth month of the Japanese onslaught, a small group of dedicated American fighting men refused to accept defeat and rallied together to organize guerrilla resistance. One of these heroic men was Private Doyle Decker. Doyle's son, Malcolm Decker, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, is finally telling his father's story, and doing so in fine fashion.

Autographed book: \$21.85 by check or money order to: Malcolm Decker 1625 Northbrook St Lebanon, MO 65536 www.doyledec@earthlink.net





**Death March Survivor From Page 8**

He joined the local guerrillas led by Lt. Pablo Cinco. He could only contribute little to the group because he was still weak and not fit to fight.

On Oct. 17, 1944, when many ships of the Allied Liberation Forces were sighted on the horizon of Leyte Gulf, Musca, together with Sgt. Francisco Gamba and T/Sgt. Alfonso Redoa, (both Scout members), and Army Pvt. Jesus de Veyra paddled a native boat toward the ships.

They were instead met by a speedboat and made to board one of the ships. He and the other Scouts were later issued

uniforms after they checked a roster of units in the Philippines.

For three days, they sketched the Japanese positions in Tanauan and nearby places as targets of shelling.

Musca retired from military service after the war and has been receiving pension. He taught drafting and military science at the Leyte Institute University (now the Eastern Visayas State University) from 1950 to 1979.

He is now one of the few living survivors of the Fall of Bataan and the Death March.

On a wall in his sala hangs a laminated enlarged photo of him and his comrades in formation shortly after the Fall of Bataan.

Shortly after the liberation of Leyte, he was able to have the film negative in his diary processed, he said.

But among his treasured mementos are photographs of the landing of the Allied Liberation Forces on the shore of Leyte in October 1944.

*This 4/15/05 article is reprinted with the kind permission of the [Philippine] Inquirer News Service. Editor*

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**A Scout Remembers From Page 6**

already broken frontline, my platoon was fixed upon the Japanese. I sent a message to my Company Commander, who then ordered our tactical withdrawal. The night before the surrender on April 9 (which we did not know then), my platoon was encircled and had about two hours of exchanging fire with the enemy. It was about 10:00 PM when the firing stopped. I thank God, the enemy left us.

In the morning of April 9, 1942, I was surprised that our Battalion Executive Officer (Major Smith) showed with us. He asked me to ask my men whether or not they want to continue fighting which I did. Unanimously, we all answered to continue fighting until our last breath. And, with soft but determined voice, he said, "I know you P.S. for your bravery and loyalty to the United States as you have demonstrated during battles here in Bataan. If I survive this war, I will testify in the U.S. Congress about your heroism and loyalty to the U.S. Thank you. Yesterday, I heard in the radio about the plan of the General to surrender unconditionally. Disassemble your weap-

ons and throw them into the stream", which we did. I sent a man to the street to check what was going on and in a few minutes, he returned with a report that many of our co-soldiers were already on the road. We bid good-bye to each other including the Major.

That was the beginning of my participation with the "Death March". On the 3rd day of the Death March, I was about to escape but when I was already on the ditch ready to run, I looked ahead of the column and I saw the Japanese guard aimed his rifle at me. I ran back down the column and zigzag in-between the men. Fortunately, a Japanese officer yelled to the Japanese guard for reasons I do not know, and the guard stopped running after me. With only a canteen-of-water and a bowl-of-rice that I ate in one evening during the about one-week Death March, I cannot explain now how I survived the Death March.

I was POW at Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac in Group 6 (Clerk Group), where I almost lost my life because I was sick with malaria and dysentery. In

Camp O'Donnell, we Filipino POWs were in different groups. There were a Drivers Group, Farmers Group, Clerk Group, etc. We Filipino-POWs were released, by provinces. I was from Bayambang, Pangasinan. My wife and the mayor of our home-town met me at the Dau Train-Station, where we rode on a boxed-train with my Pangasinan POWs who were released on Sept. 27, 1942.

After two years of recuperations, I joined the Pangasinan Sabotage and Demolition Squadron under Capt. Ray Hunt, Jr. I returned to U.S. Army military control in April 1945. My commission was not confirmed because I told the truth that I was not sworn-in because we were encircled by the Japanese when I was supposed to accept my commission. But I went to OCS (Officer Candidate School) after I returned to military control and was commissioned 2nd Lt, AUS in April 1946. I retired as a Major in 1958 at Fort Lewis, Washington after 25 years of active duty.

*The above account has been slightly edited. Editor*

## Scout Information Exchange

*Due to the heavy volume of queries concerning former or possible Philippine Scouts, we now only list individual names and units in the newsletter. For more details check the Message Board on our website at [www.philippine-scouts.org](http://www.philippine-scouts.org). Please place any information on these men directly on our Message board or mail information directly to the newsletter editor.*

**Col. Uldarico S. Baclagon**, who accompanied "Flying Column" that liberated Santo Tomas Internment Camp. May not have been a Scout.

**Placento Ballesteros**. No further information available.

**Epefanico Garcia Balmediano, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS), Co. I**. Looking for information on him and his Company I comrades.

**Sgt. Ludovico "Vic" Beltran**. Survived the war and made career in U.S. Army. His son is writing book on him.

**PFC. Luis Callao**, in unspecified **Medical Unit**.

**Maj. Eriberto Caranto, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS), Co. M**. Biographic info wanted for a Veterans Museum display on Philippine Scouts. Particularly interested in Scout units with which he served.

**Bayani P. Diaz**. Joined Scouts on Bataan, died at O'Donnell. Family wants to know with what Scout unit he served and any other information.

**PFC. Mario Irigon, 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS)**. Fought on Bataan and was a POW at O'Donnell. Remained in U.S. Army post-war, retired at Fort Lewis, Washington and died in 1987.

**Pvt. Marvin Ramos Hill, 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS), in Service & Hdqtrs. Co.** Promoted to Lt. with First MP Bn. following war. Family wishes to contact former comrades.

**SSgt Procopio Kabahit, Battery "D", 92nd Coast Artillery Bn.** Grandson compiling family history would like to contact former comrades.

**Cpl. Juan Lagrimas, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)**. Died April 8, 1942 on Bataan.

**Anatalio Mortera Laplap, 91<sup>st</sup> or 92<sup>nd</sup> Coast Artillery (PS)** (1900-63). Stationed on Corregidor until the surrender.

**Lt. James Kellum Levie, signals officer** assigned to unspecified Scout unit. POW in Cabanatuan and Mukden, Manchuria. Still living, but with faded memory.

**Col. E. J. Lilly, Jr., Executive Officer, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)**

**Sgt. Antonio Lumio, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)**. Joined Scouts in 1929. Died of malaria 5/14/42 while incarcerated at O'Donnell.

**Dr. Heraclea Matheu**. Fought with guerrillas under Capt. Joseph Barker.

**Amado Politano (aka Adam Polite), 14<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. (PS)**. Survived war and immigrated to U.S.

**Andres Roselada, 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS)**. Family believes he was promoted from M.Sgt. to Lt. after destroying a Japanese tank on Bataan. Fought with guerrillas in Bicol. Thirty year career in U.S. Army. Died 1962. Grandson publishing his journal, wants bio data.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Liberato E. Sabio**, stationed at Ft. McKinley motor pool, then Quartermaster Depot. After release from O'Donnell, joined the guerrillas in Bulacan.

**Capt. Harold A. Wallace, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)**. Died on the Brazil Maru in 1945.

**Fort Sam Houston Museum:** Further information is available on the Philippine Scouts at the Fort Sam Houston Museum website (<http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc>). The portion of this site devoted to the Scouts is available by clicking on "Did You Know?" ([http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc/philp\\_scouts.html](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc/philp_scouts.html)). The Museum, located on a U.S. Army base in San Antonio, Texas, is the official USG repository for Philippine Scout memorabilia.

*We also are interested in photos and information on the military experiences of former Philippine Scouts, which will be added to our library archives. Short articles on the exploits of individual Scouts or Scout units may be printed in our newsletter or on our website. Material may be submitted by e-mail or through the postal service to Mike Houlahan, our Public Relations Officer and Newsletter Editor whose address appears on the final page of this newsletter.*

## In Memoriam

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the following members passing:

Former Philippine Scout **Arthur Agpalasin** passed away. Arthur fought on Bataan, took part in the infamous Death March, survived POW camp at O'Donnell and retired from the U.S. Army after thirty years of loyal service. A First Sergeant, he also was a past president of the Monterey Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and an active member for many years. He is survived by his wife Shirley.

**Captain Manual Cabading**, long-time GGBA Chapter member and former Philippine Scout, passed away on November 23, 2004, just a month short of his 85th birthday. Manny enlisted in the 57th Infantry (PS), Company M in February, 1941. He saw considerable combat in the defense of Bataan and Corregidor, spent a short term as a POW before being paroled by the Japanese and joining the Philippine Constabulary (PC). While in the PC he cooperated with the Fil-Am guerrillas, and then, when General MacArthur returned, deserted to join the anti-Japanese resistance. He left the service in 1947 and moved to the U.S. When the Korean War broke out, he re-enlisted in the infantry. During the Korean War he received three Purple Hearts for wounds in battle and a Silver Star for combat gallantry. Manual made a career in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1963 and becoming a Department of Army Civilian until retiring again in 1978. He lived in San Francisco for many years and is survived by a son, Oscar Oregana and a daughter, Manuela Fontanilla, as well as a sister and a brother.

**Juan M. Fontanilla**, a former Philippine Scout and a lifetime member of the Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society,

passed away on May 13, 2005. He was 94. Juan joined the Scouts in 1941 and survived the Bataan Death March and incarceration as a POW. He continued in military service, serving in the Korean War and eventually retiring. He is survived by Teodula, his wife of 67 years, five of six children, 10 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

**Ireneo Basas Encina**, who served in the Philippine Scouts, passed away on April 14, 2005 after a brief illness. He and his wife lived in Panorama City, California. Born in Tanauan, Leyte, Philippines on August 25, 1927 to Enrique Encina and Graciana Basas, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Philippine Scout on July 31, 1946. Initially trained as an auto mechanic, Ernie served as a military policeman stationed in the Philippines and Guam. He was honorably discharged as a PFC on April 29, 1949 from the 8149th Service Unit. Ernie was a member of the Lt. Alexander R. Ninninger Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

**Eleuterio de Dios** ("Terry") of Mountain View, California and Dulag, Leyte, died in the Philippines after a long illness on October 2, 2004. He was 85. Terry enlisted in February, 1941 and served in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 24th Field Artillery (PS). He fought on Bataan, then survived the Death March and prison camp. Discharged shortly after the war ended, he earned a degree in banking and finance on the GI Bill, worked for Coca Cola for several years, then finished his career at the Philippine Ministry of Labor and Employment. He also was an American Legion Post Commander for several years in Leyte and served as Chief of the Philippine National Police detachment in Dulag. Following retirement, he moved to the U.S. where he lived from 1992 to 2002. He is survived by Reme-

dios, his wife of sixty years, three daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

**Guillermo A. Flores** ("Gil") passed away after a lengthy illness on September 23, 2004 at the age of 81. He enlisted in September, 1941 and served in the 92nd Coast Artillery Battery "C". Following the surrender of Fil-Am forces, he became a POW. Discharged shortly following the war, he immigrated to the U.S. where he held various positions in transportation, the food industry and health care until his retirement. He is survived by Iona, his second wife, who lives in Modesto, California and a son and daughter from his first marriage, both living in Sacramento.

On July 1, 2005, following a lengthy illness, **Lewis E. Gleeck, Jr.**, retired Foreign Service Officer, passed away at the age of 92 at his home in Bowie, MD.

From 1940 to 1969, Lew was a member of the Foreign Service of the United States, serving several times in Washington and in Canada, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Iceland, Norway and Pakistan before arriving in the Philippines, where he retired after six years (1962-1969) as consul general.

He would remain in the Philippines until 1999, joining the USAID to work on land reform and cooperatives for six years and subsequently to serve for several years as consultant on base-community relations to the U.S. Navy at Subic Bay.

Lew then served as editor of the *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection* and the curator of its library now located at the Ateneo de Manila University from April, 1976 through December, 1998.

During his long and varied career, he published at least fourteen books and scores of articles on the American experience in the Philippines.

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**In Memoriam From Page 11**

Although not a PSHS member, he certainly was a good friend of the Philippine Scouts. During more than 22 years as editor of the BULLETIN, he published numerous articles on WWII in the Philippines, including several on the Philippine Scouts, some of which were written by PSHS members.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Norma C. Gleeck, and sons Alfred Lewis Gleeck and Edward Gleeck and daughter Eva Gleeck.

**Gil Hair**, a long-time member of the Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter, passed away on September 15, 2004 following a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 63. As an infant, Gil and his mother were interned by the Japanese in April 1942 in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. Malnutrition, lack of medical care and generally poor conditions in the camp caused Gil medical problems which were to plague him the rest of his life.

After serving in the Marine Corps, Gil he worked in industry, and banking before founding what would become the *Center for Internee Rights* in 1990 where he fought for the rights of civilian and military prisoners of the Japanese during World War II. The Center partnered with similar groups from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Great Britain and the Netherlands to sue the Japanese government through the Japanese court system for the violation of the human rights of allied prisoners.

In 1994, Gil testified eloquently be-

fore the Tokyo District Court concerning the case and for the next ten years effectively represented his organization in dealings with similar overseas groups and in pursuing the case all the way to the Japanese Supreme Court. This effort was not supported by either the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Justice Department and the Japanese Supreme Court ruled against the plaintiffs.

He is survived by his daughter, Nicole Hair Vasbinder, his mother, Jane MacMahon Hair Jantzen, his brothers: Robert J. Jantzen Jr. and Michael G. Jantzen, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. His father, a British citizen, had joined the U.S. Army, only to be captured and subsequently die on one of the infamous Japanese "Hell Ships".

Gil is remembered by WWII veterans and others who were mistreated by the Japanese for his persistent and courageous fight for acknowledgment of the wartime crimes.

Lifetime member **Demetrio R. Mabutas** of Sunnyvale, California died June 14, 2004. Demetrio was a "New Scout" who enlisted in February, 1946 and was discharged in February, 1949. He served in the 8147th Service Unit (PCH) PS, APO. He is survived by Alfredo Mabutas.

**Pedro Mabutas**, also of Sunnyvale, passed away on April 9, 2004, a few weeks short of his 82nd birthday. Pedro enlisted in September 1946 as a "New

Scout" in the 64th Quartermaster Service Co. and was discharged almost three years later. He is survived by his wife Paz.

Since our last newsletter it has been belated brought to my attention that **Quinten Perez** of the Pershing Chapter, passed away on October 2, 2002 in Killeen, Texas. Quinten enlisted in the Philippine Scouts in 1931 and was assigned to Headquarters and the band of the 24th Field Artillery (PS). He survived combat and POW camp, and then was discharged in 1946. He was predeceased by his wife Eufracia.

**Bernard Sayson**, GGBAC Lifetime member and First Vice-President, passed away on September 27, four days after his seventieth birthday. Bernard served in the U.S. Army with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division from 1961-1970. He was stationed in Germany and Vietnam, receiving a Silver Star and Purple Heart, along with numerous other medals. After his discharge, he worked in security with the USG for fifteen years, then with Lockheed for another twelve years.

Bernard is survived by his wife Violeta, a retired school teacher living in San Jose and his son Darron. Bernard's late father **Ebert Sayson** was a Philippine Scout who fought on Bataan and then with the guerrillas after the USAFFE surrender.

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## **An Act of Generosity**

In an extremely gracious and generous gesture, **Lina's Flower Shop**, 100 Los Olivos Avenue in Daly City has been donating wreathes for the funerals of Philippine Scouts from the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter. Shop owner **Lina Susbilla's** father, **Pablo Mesina**, a 45th Infantry (PS) veteran and lifetime PSHS member, requested this be done. Lina coordinates these donations directly with the GGBAC.



## Chapter News

### Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter:

The highlight of the Tacoma Chapter's year was the extremely successful Fundraising Dinner and Dance on September 10, 2005 at the Elks Lodge #174 in Tacoma. The fundraising will enable the Chapter to host the 2008 PSHS national reunion in Tacoma

The event's keynote speaker was **Col. Roger C. Serra**, son of a Philippine Scout Warrant Officer Marcelino Serra. Col. Serra's speech, "*The Guardian of a Legacy*", outlined the mission and purpose of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, which is to "preserve the rich history, heritage, and legacy of the Philippine Scouts." **Col. Serra** pointed out that "the long brown line of Philippine Scouts is slowly fading and unless we, the sons and daughters of this great generation, preserve their legacy, they will be a footnote in history." He further said, "we are the guardians of this noble heritage and it is our destiny to ensure the Philippine Scouts Legacy will be remembered for all generations."

Among the guests that attended were: **Col. Ian Larson** Ret. President of the Friends of the Ft. Lewis Military Museum and his wife **Evelyn**, **LTC. Albert Cosio**, son of a Philippine Scout and his wife **Elena**, **Monterey Chapter President Greg Ramos**, his wife **Conchita** and a friend **Maria Capili**, **Ms. Susan Barbon** daughter of a Philippine Scout from Tuscon, Arizona, **Mr. Bert Caoili** president of the Filipino Community Center in Seattle, Washington, and **Major Urbano Quijance** past commander of the Bataan Corregidor Survivors Association and their families.

Tacoma Chapter President **Jose C. Calugas, Jr.** was the Master of Ceremonies and his brother, **Jorge**, and his band *D'Variations* played. Everyone enjoyed the evening dancing and mingling with friends and relatives.

The Chapter was represented at the national reunion by life members **Dr. Rose Ferasol** and her husband **Leo Ferasol**. Mr. Ferasol's father was a US-AFFE veteran.

**Chapter President Joe Calugas** spoke to the Filipino American group at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma in May as part of Asian Pacific Islander month celebrations. Philippine Scouts memorabilia also was on display.

**BG. Michael Dunn** the outgoing commanding general of Madigan and his wife were present to welcome the Philippine Scouts Veterans and the widows. The program coordinator was **Mrs. Elena Cosio** the wife of **LTC Al Cosio** who was one of the speakers. Both had Philippine Scout fathers.

Newly recruited chapter members include the following eight: **Col. Roger C. Serra** from Tacoma, **Nelson T. Omero, Jr.** from Federal Way, **Rudolf** and **Nicole Omero** from Tacoma, **Mrs. Sylvia Omero Rogstad** from Seattle, **Isaac "Ike" Cambronero** from Shoreline, **Zenaida Crisosoma Slempp** from Puyalup, and **SFC Magno B. Tulfo** from University Place.

**Joe and Goody Calugas** were guests at the grand opening ceremony of the new *Veterans Memorial Museum* in Chehalis, Washington in July. The Veterans Memorial Museum is dedicated to honor, commemorate and perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices of the men and women of the US Armed Forces throughout our country's history. Joe's father, Medal of Honor recipient **Sgt. Jose Calugas, Sr.** has a tile on display at the Wall of Heroes in front of the building.

The Seattle Housing Authority is naming a new apartment building the **Sgt. Jose Calugas Sr.** Apartments in honor of Joe's father.

### Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter:

**Chapter President Cion Rael** and **Evelyn Guiang** spearheaded the very successful organization of our 2005 reunion. *The Chapter also confirms that it will host our 2006 reunion on Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27, again at the Radisson Villa Hotel in San Mateo.* Details will be included in our next newsletter.

On June 11, 2005, GGBAC 2nd VP and former Scout **David Tejada** and **Cion Rael** participated in the 1st Filipino Freedom Fighters Day on the USS Hornet in Alameda and displayed all the PSHS posters and books available on the Philippine Scouts. Ten original Philippine Scouts veterans, all non-members of PSHS, were present to cut the ribbon of the future "Philippine War Museum/Library". The Philippine Consulate General in SF held a fundraising benefit to support the USS Hornet and in turn, the USS Hornet allocated a free space for a new "Philippine War Museum/Library" (temporary name) on board the ship and designated it to the Filipino American Historical Society of SF (FAHS). **Eduardo Datangel**, President and publisher/owner of T'Boli publishing company in San Francisco and Manila wishes to permanently display pictures and history of the Philippine Scouts among the Museum collection.

The Chapter and FAHS are jointly planning a fundraiser to help "fix-up" the museum. On deck, there is a souvenir shop where they sell books, articles and WWII memorabilia. The Chapter hopes to provide duplicate copies of PSHS posters/pictures for display and to sell the Philippine Scouts History Book and other Scout-related books through the souvenir shop. To view the USS Hornet go to:

<http://www.uss-hornet.org>

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Chapter News From Page 13

**General John J. Pershing Chapter (El Paso):**

The Bataan ROTC Battalion of New Mexico State University, the New Mexico National Guard and the Army White Sands Missile Test Range jointly sponsored the annual Bataan Memorial Death March on March 20. More than 3500 registered marchers participated in the 26.2 mile course. They came from 43 states and 9 countries. Mr. Parazo and members of the El Paso chapter attended the memorial celebration. Nineteen Bataan survivors and other ExPOWs from the European theater were honored as special guests. A DVD tape copy of the entire affair was donated to PSHS and to the PS Museum in San Antonio.

Capt. Menandro Parazo and three members of the chapter with their families were among the ten Bataan Survivors from TX honored by the state senate in Austin during their Memorial Day celebration of the Fall of Bataan. Each

survivor received a medallion and a framed copy of the resolution approved by the senate.

The Military Order of the World Wars invited the chapter on their annual Massing of the Colors, which also was attended by military, veterans, schools and civic organizations.

The Ft. Bliss military invited the chapter and various veterans' organizations and the El Paso community to their Independence Day celebration.

The Mayor of Taos invited **Capt. Parazo** to speak at their rededication of their Bataan Memorial Monument built in the town plaza.

**The Parazos** were guests at the Bataan Veterans Organization's annual convention held in Rio Rancho in June. **Menandro Parazo** spoke briefly about the old and new PS, the Philippine Forces and the Resistance Guerrilla Movement in WWII.

Members attended the Memorial Day celebration at the Ft. Bliss National

Cemetery.

Six chapter members attended the reunion held in San Mateo 27-28 May. They were **Col. and Mrs. John Olson, Capt. and Mrs. Felipe Fernandez, Mrs. Mary Wood** and **Capt. Parazo**.

**Monterey County Chapter:**

**Chapter President Greg and Conchita Ramos, Juan and Salome Guzman, Jaime and Betty Quevedo, Felipe and Emilia Fernandez, Maria Capili and Pacita Urmaneta** all attended the annual national reunion at San Mateo and several attended the Tacoma Chapter's gala fundraiser in September.

**Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Chapter:**

No activities reported.

**LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapter:**

No activities reported.

**26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS)**

The following are surviving 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) officers and men. Any additions to this list would be appreciated:

- Col. William E. Chandler**, San Antonio, TX
- Master Sgt. James Downey, Jr.**, Newport News, VA
- Capt. Felipe Fernandez**, Seaside, CA
- SFC Dan Figuracion**, Lakewood, WA
- Col. Thomas S. Jones**, Safety Harbor, FL
- Lt. Col. Edwin P. Ramsey**, Los Angeles, CA
- Capt. Menandro Parazo**, El Paso, TX
- Dr. Isabelo S. Torio**, San Diego, CA.

In subsequent issues we will attempt to compile lists from other Scout units.

**Fort Sam Houston Museum Archives**

The Fort Sam Houston Museum in San Antonio, Texas is the official USG repository for memorabilia on the Philippine Scouts.

Museum Director John Manguso can be contacted at: (210) 221-0019 or [John.Manguso@amedd.army.mil](mailto:John.Manguso@amedd.army.mil).

The website address is: [http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc/philp\\_scouts.html](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc/philp_scouts.html).

Files on the following Philippine Scout units are available in the museum archives:

- 12<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion
- 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment
- 45<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments
- 91<sup>st</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiments
- 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalions
- 14<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion

## 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:

On Sept 2, **National President Fred Foz**, 45th Infantry (PS), **Gil Gutierrez** of the 12th Medical Bn, (PS) and **John Moyer** of Philippine Division were guests of honor representing the PSHS at a ceremony held on the Battleship USS Missouri commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Col. Ben Skardon, former prisoner of the Japanese, spoke of his experiences. Veterans from Australia, Japan and Canada also were present.

**First Vice President John Patterson** presided as Interim President over the national reunion. **Senator Patterson** also continues to shepherd through our application for nonprofit status with the IRS thereby enabling donations to the PSHS to be tax deductible. He is hopeful this process will be successfully completed during this tax year. **John** also has been interviewed by the *Standard Times*, a local newspaper, about the Philippine Scouts and his uncle, **Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)**, who received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism on Bataan.

**National Second Vice President Menandro Parazo** spoke at several military events and awards ceremonies. For a full recounting, visit his chapter report. He was also one of the interviews featured on **Oliver North's** War Stories television program which aired in mid-July.

**Tacoma Chapter President Joe Calugas'** and **GGBAC Chapter President Cion Rael's** activities are detailed in their chapter reports. Cion's excellent organization of the reunion is particularly newsworthy, as is Joe's continuing success in recruiting new members.

**Fort Sam Houston Museum Director John Manguso** reports that the museum has published an updated version of the booklet, "Surrounded by History," which identifies the people for whom the streets, buildings and facilities at Fort Sam Houston are named. One of the historic sites is Calugas Court, named after Medal of Honor recipient **Sgt. Jose Calugas, Sr.**

In June, **Col. Mel Rosen** spoke to some 200 seventh graders at Rocky Run Middle School. It was an all-day event talking to groups of six-seven students at a time. They each had prepared written questions—many of which were really penetrating. He then addressed the whole student body—including eighth graders—and the faculty in their auditorium. In July, he and his wife **Olive** attended as a guest of Honor a special screening of "The Great Raid" at the invitation of American Coalition of Filipino Veterans at the George Washington University. **Mel** shared the stage and questions with one of the former rangers who participated in the raid. He is scheduled to talk to the Patuxent Naval Air Station early in September and is on three panels for the International WWII Conference hosted by the D-Day Museum in New Orleans 5-9 October; and scheduled to talk to The American WWII Veterans Committee Conference November 10-12. **Mel** also was one of the featured interviews on **Oliver North's** War Stories television program that aired in mid-July.

**Malcolm Decker's** excellent book [On a Mountainside: The 155<sup>th</sup> Provisional Guerrilla Battalion Against the Japanese on Luzon](#) continues to sell well. A review of his book can be found on the

PSHS website. The book is available through the *Amazon* and *Barnes and Noble* websites and directly from the publisher *Barbed Wire Press*. **Malcolm** continues to hold book signings, including one at our national convention.

**Chris Schaefer** highly recommended new book [Bataan Diary: An American Family in World War II, 1941-1945](#) released by *Riverview Publishing* also is selling very well. He has delivered a series of about twenty talks to alumni groups and Rotary clubs in Texas and Utah. In each talk he covers the Battle of Bataan, the role of the Philippine Scouts, and the Japanese treatment of POWs. In June, the Mayor of Houston presented a proclamation to the Houston A&M Club and **Chris**, recognizing their efforts to remember and recognize the veterans of World War II. [Bataan Diary](#) is reviewed on our PSHS website. **Chris's** website at [www.bataandiary.com](http://www.bataandiary.com) is interesting and worth a visit. The book is available through the *Amazon* and *Barnes and Noble* websites and directly from the publisher.

**Rod Hall** has revised and expanded his excellent bibliography to nearly 600 entries. The focus is on personal experiences both civilian and military, within the Philippines, during the Japanese occupation, and generally does not cover the battles to liberate the Philippines in 1944-1945. (**Rod** was a child in Manila during WWII. He lost his mother, grandmother, aunt and uncle during the Japanese massacre of civilians in the final weeks of the battle to liberate Manila.)

By the time this newsletter is delivered, **Chief Warrant Officer 4 Aniceto Bagley** will have overseen the

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completion of the Philippine Scouts exhibit at the local Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Alabama. The display will be dedicated to the memory of **Major Eriberto Caranto, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)**.

**Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey** was a featured interview on **Oliver North's** War Stories July 17 episode on World War II in the Philippines. According to **Steve Tierney**, the program's producer, that episode received an outstanding response from the viewing public.

**Ed's** book, Lieutenant Ramsey's War: From Horse Soldier to Guerrilla Commander, co-written with **Stephen J. Rivele** has been republished in paperback pocket book size as part of Potomac's new Memories of War series. Listed for

\$9.95, it can be obtained through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com or ordered through their book stores. Potomac Books, Inc. website is: [www.potomacbooksinc.com](http://www.potomacbooksinc.com).

National Historian **Col. John Olson** continues to devote extensive time to organizing the Fort Sam Houston Museum archives on the Philippine Scouts and helping answer Scout-related questions coming to our website.

Newsletter Editor **Mike Houlahan** had an article "The Philippine Scouts" printed in the August issue of *The Quan*. His review of **Chris Schaefer's** Bataan Diary was carried in the *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection* and his review of **Malcolm Decker's** On a Mountainside is pending publication in *On Point: The Journal of Army History*. His short report on a trip to the Fort Sam Houston Museum in San Antonio is elsewhere in this issue.

While the PSHS is pleased to assist where possible in obtaining information on former and deceased Philippine Scouts, our archives are not extensive. More complete information often can be acquired through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To obtain a request form, please call your County Veterans Service Office or the national VA at (800) 827-1000 and ask for VA Form 180 (Request Pertaining to Military Records). This form is also available on the VA website: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

You also may be able to get a copy of your relative's military records by writing to:

**National Personnel Records Center**  
**9700 Page Road**  
**St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

**Other information of possible interest includes:**  
 Fact sheet for VA Benefits for Filipino Soldiers  
<http://www.va.gov/pressrel/filipvet.htm>

**Veterans Benefits & Services for New Philippine Scouts**  
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign/scouts.htm>





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- Awarded “Best Banquets of the Peninsula” last four years

**Hotel Information**

The Radisson Villa Hotel, offering 286 luxurious guestrooms and suites, has been a Peninsula Landmark since 1956 and initially was the host hotel for many of the Stars such as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Shirley MacLaine. The Radisson Villa is centrally located between the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean with rolling hills as a backdrop. The San Francisco International Airport is 8 miles north, Silicon Valley 20 miles south, Oakland 10 miles east across the San Mateo Bridge, San Jose Airport 25 miles south, Stanford University 12 miles south, the beautiful Half Moon Bay 15 miles west and downtown San Francisco 22 miles north. We are within walking distance to the Hillsdale Mall featuring Nordstrom, Macy’s and over 100 specialty stores, with downtown San Mateo and downtown Burlingame offering a myriad of restaurants, lounges and stores for those who need to dine and shop.

SAN MATEO  
Radisson Villa Hotel  
4000 South El Camino Real  
San Mateo, California 94403  
650-341-0966 Fax 650-358-4070  
www.radissonvilla.com  
Reservations 800.333.3333



# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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*Please contact us if you  
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like to become involved  
with the Philippine Scouts  
Heritage Society!*