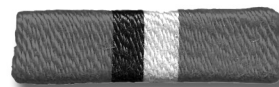
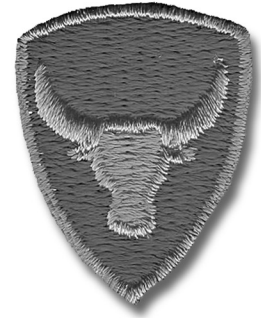


# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



*Spring 2008*

## **Our 24th Annual Reunion—San Francisco**

Once again we gather together to honor the heroics of the Philippine Scouts, the legendary warriors of WWII who held back the Japanese onslaught in the South Pacific for five long months, enabling allied forces to rally in Australia and New Zealand, and then begin the long slog north to retake the Philippines and eventually force the unconditional surrender of Japan.

The Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter will host the 24th Annual reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society May 23 – 24 at the Embassy Suites, San Francisco Airport – Burlingame.

The theme for the reunion is “WWII and the Fabulous Forties” and will be a

tribute to Philippine Scouts fathers and mothers. The \$40 suggested donation includes the banquet and dance, a series of panels on Scout history, hospitality hours, and business sessions.

Included will be a presentation by the son of a Philippine Scout officer charged with carrying the word of the surrender to American and Filipino forces holding out in Northern Luzon. The war and its aftermath will be discussed from the first hand perspective of Philippine Scout families. There will be documentaries shown on the war and a book presentation/signing by one of our PSHS authors. A panel will discuss the younger generations and the future of the Society.

Another reunion highlight will be the keynote address by Major General Antonio “Tony” Taguba at our final dinner. The son of a Philippine Scout, General Taguba is perhaps best known for his drafting of a confidential memo detailing the abuses committed by American guards against Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. This courageous report is credited with improving conditions and eliminating many of the abuses that had been widespread at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere.

Those attending the banquet and dance are encouraged to wear clothing reminiscent of the 1940s. A registration form is elsewhere in this newsletter. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2008**.

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## **The History of “The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society”**

**By Col. John Olson**

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS) traces its origin to May 1985. At that time the late Lt. Col. Loyd Mills organized a lunch for former members of the Fifty-Seventh Infantry (PS) who were attending the Annual Reunion of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor in Kansas City.

The affair was well received and it was agreed that there should be an an-

nual reunion. Lt. Col Homer J. Colman volunteered to chair the 1986 meeting at Grand Junction, Co. This was done with some 30 members and spouses.

The Third Annual Meeting was held in San Antonio, TX arranged by Col. Maynard Booth. By agreement, invitations were extended to all Philippine Scouts who could be located. Attendance was 64.

*See History Page 5*

## Editor's Comments

This issue again concentrates on World War II and Philippine Scout History. Our PSHS Historian Col. John E. Olson gives a thumbnail accounting of the formation of our Society. He, of course, was one of the original members.

Then a young academic begins a serialized account of Philippine Scout history from their beginnings during the Spanish American and Filipino-American wars, right up to the demobilization in the late 1940s. This series should run for three or four more installments.

Another article running in serial format continues the recounting of Ameri-

can invasion plans for the Japanese home islands and the kind of resistance this invasion would have encountered. Massive employment of American troops, including Philippine Scouts, was planned. Casualties among the allied forces were expected to reach at least one million. The Japanese would have lost far more. Fortunately President Harry Truman employed the Atomic Bomb, thereby making this extraordinarily costly invasion unnecessary.

Finally, Sue Trout recounts the poignant story her mother told of a wounded young American soldier and his mother's engagement ring just before

the surrender of our forces on Bataan. The young man knew he was doomed and wanted to be remembered. He has been.

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join together in San Francisco for our annual reunion!

Mike Houlahan, Editor

## Newsletter and Library

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

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

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

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### Advertising Rates

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Quarter page: \$35  
Business card: \$18

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## National President's Letter

It's not long before the Society's holds its next annual reunion and business meeting. The reunion will take place on May 23rd and May 24th at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Burlingame, California. The Hotel is near the San Francisco Airport. I hope we will see everyone there.

Chapter President Cion Rael and the membership of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter, will be hosting the reunion. As in years past, I know that she and her team will ensure that the reunion will be an outstanding success. The registration form is elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have lined up some outstanding panels and presentations. For example, there will be reminiscences regarding a Scout who was on General Wainwright's staff at the time Corregidor fell. A panel will deal with how descendents view their relatives who were Scouts. Another will discuss the future of the Society and the role of the "next" generation. We also will show two videos depicting the Scouts and their sacrifices during the early days of WWII, and have a book presentation/signing.

What is very exciting is that General Antonio Taguba will be our keynote speaker at Saturday night's dinner. General Taguba will be the fourth General

with Scout relatives who has been a keynote speaker at one of our reunions.

Let me conclude by paraphrasing the Mission of the *Mukden Prisoner of War Remembrance Society*. The Society's aim, much like our own, is to honor the Scouts, educate future generations, and preserve their history.

1. **Honor:** To recognize and honor the courage and sacrifice of the Philippine Scouts.

2. **Educate:** By collecting information, preserving it for future research, and sharing information with others, the history and legacy of the Philippine Scouts will never be forgotten.

3. **Preserve History:** The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society has been collecting artifacts for years which have been turned over the U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. The Museum is the official repository for artifacts and memorabilia related to the Scouts. In addition, the Society is creating a library of books and manuscripts related to the Scouts.

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society has accomplished much as an organization since it was created at Ft. Sam Houston in 1989. It's also true that many of our members have given talks, written articles and books and participated in a number of activities related to the



John A. Patterson, President  
Photo: David Rosen

Scouts. On a personal note, I attended a ceremony last September at West Point. The *Alexander Nininger Award for Valor* is a new event in my uncle's honor. It's meant to recognize West Point graduates for their valor during recent hostilities. This past award was made to a young Major who received the Silver Star for his exploits in Iraq.

So, off to San Francisco. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 23rd and May 24th.

Sen. John Alexander Patterson  
President  
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

## Website News

A redesign of our Philippine Scouts Heritage Society website (<http://www.philippine-scouts.org>) has made it more reader friendly, comprehensive and easily navigated. It has received over 34,500 visits, since being established in July, 2002.

Our message board, which is visited by seventy or eighty viewers daily, now contains about 400 topics and 1,300 comment postings. You are invited to visit the PSHS website 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 proj-

ects and requests. The "Resources" page has links to thirty-two other websites, three bibliographies and numerous articles. We also link to U.S. government sources of information on former Scouts and on benefits available to them.

Thank you for your support!

Christa Houlahan  
Webmaster

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



## First Vice-President's Letter

Our 24th National Annual Reunion will be hosted by the GGBAC Chapter in San Francisco. Chapter President Cion M. Rael has prepared programs to highlight "1940- Let's Swing it".

The highlights of the event will display Philippine Scouts Memorabilia and Philippine Scouts Library project. Different Scouts books will be on sale. The panel discussions include the sons of the Philippine Scouts Dr. Anthony Maravilles from Chicago, and Paul Ruiz from Benicia, CA. Our original members are aging and we need the infusion of the younger generation to carry on the torch. The PSHS mission is to preserve the heritage, history, and the legacy of the Philippine Scouts. What could be more fitting?

The members of the Reenactors will be present again this year. They have contributed to the success of last year 23rd National Reunion in Tacoma. Gil Mislant of the group from Los Angeles is trying to activate the Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Jr. Chapter and will recruit the members of the Reenactors. Let us give them our wholehearted support!

Thank you Cion for hosting the reunion. The members of the Tacoma Chapter are looking forward to participate the reunion on May 23-24, 2008.

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



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

## 24th Reunion: A Welcome from the GGBAC

The Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter is honored to host the 24th Annual reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society to be held May 23 - 24, 2008 at the Embassy Suites, San Francisco Airport - Burlingame, 150 Anza Blvd, Burlingame, Ca 94010.

The theme and attire set for the reunion: Let's SWING It! "WWII and the "Fabulous Forties and a tribute to our heroes, our Philippine Scouts fathers and mothers.

The \$40.00 suggested donation includes the spectacular banquet and dance, registration, hospitality hours, and business sessions. The registration form is attached. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2008**.

Hotel accommodations at the Embassy Suite is \$149. per night plus taxes. Complimentary amenities and services includes full cooked to order

breakfast served in the garden atrium from 7:00am - 10:30am and each evening complimentary Manager's Reception from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, serving complimentary cocktails, beer, wine, non-alcoholic drinks and snacks. In addition, complimentary 24-hour shuttle service to and from San Francisco International Airport and parking at the hotel. Attendees are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations at Embassy Suites, (650) 342-4600 or PSHS Reunion group web page to be completed by December 2007 to make your hotel reservations.

Please consider placing an advertisement in our souvenir program to help support our Newsletters and PS Library Project. To our widows, sons and daughters, relatives and of deceased Scouts, placing an aid is an ideal way to pay tribute to your loved ones who have gone before us. An ad also may be placed to honor the living Philippine

Scouts who fought so bravely to secure our freedoms.

We look forward to seeing our Philippine Scouts, members, family, relatives and friends of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society at our 24th Annual Reunion.

Cion Rael, President  
Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter  
Email: ciontv1@aol.com

### History From Page 1

The following year Col. John E. Olson was the Chairman for the reunion held at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, participated in by 42.

Lt Col. Mills conducted the Fifth Reunion at Buena Park, CA in 1988. 89 Scouts and families were present. At this meeting, Mr. John A. Patterson, nephew of 1st Lt. Alexander Nininger, 57th Infantry (PS), winner of the first Congressional Medal of Honor in World War II, proposed that a society be formed to perpetuate the memory of the Philippine Scouts. The idea was well received.

Col. Olson recommended that an effort be made to get a US Army Museum to accept the responsibility of being the

official repository of Philippine Scouts Records and Memorabilia. When the attendees voted their approval, Col. Olson volunteered to search for a museum. Brigadier General Royal Reynolds had already approached the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA, but had been turned down because the museum deals only with infantry records.

In October, 1988, Colonel Olson talked with the Curator of the Presidio Museum, who said that he was unable to handle the request. The next step was to importune the Curator of the US Army Museum at Fort Sam Houston, TX. This was an appropriate location as the museum holds material of General Wainwright's and the Fifty Seventh Infantry (PS) traces its heritage to Fort

Sam Houston. The curator was enthusiastic and sent an official request for authority to the Chief, US Army Military History Center. Approval was granted in February, 1989.

In the meantime, Mr. Patterson had prepared an initial draft of a Constitution and By-Laws. These were reviewed at the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Philippine Scouts at San Antonio. The only major change that was made was to change the name of the society to Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS). Thus, the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society was officially in being the next day when there was a ceremony to dedicate the Philippine Scout exhibit at the Fort Sam Houston Museum, **April 9, 1989**.

## A Letter from the Rosen Family

The following letter was written for the family by Col. Mel Rosen's widow, Olive. Eighteen members and one chapter donated \$1450 in Mel's memory to the PSHS newsletter, library fund and general account. Their generosity was acknowledged in our last issue and elsewhere in this newsletter. Editor

Dear Members of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society,

The Rosen family sends most sincere thanks for your many beautiful and thoughtful expressions of sympathy when our very dear Mel passed away. The Society meant so much to him, and he was very gratified to see the direction in which it was moving during the last few years. To perpetuate the history and legacy of the Philippine Scouts was his objective from the very beginning, and he knew this task would soon be in the hands of the next generation.

So, to all of you who are part of this great effort, as participating life and regular members and filling all the position necessary to make this organization function so well, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Warmest regards, Olive, David and Barbara Rosen

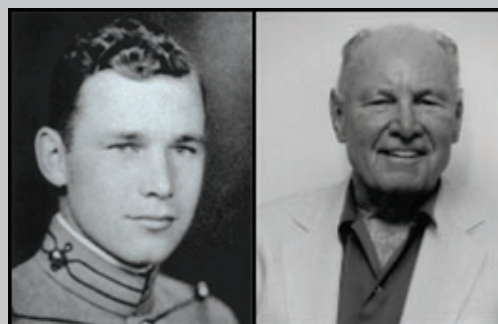


Col. Mel Rosen



## 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.



Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr.

The Generals Corner publishes historical accounts of World War II in the Philippines. This issue contains four such articles: beginning on the front page is a piece by **PSHS Historian Col. John E. Olson** recounting the history of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. The second is the beginning of a serialized article written by graduate student **Chris Yeazel** entitled "America's Sepoys", which takes an in depth view of the Philippine Scouts. The third is the second installment of "The Story of the Invasion of Japan" by **James Martin Davis**; and the final is "The Engagement Ring", a short story retold by **Sue Trout** of an incident involving her mother, **Lt. Frankie Lewey**, while working as an Army nurse on Bataan just before the surrender to the Japanese.

### America's Sepoys

By Chris Yeazel

*The following is a thesis on the Philippine Scouts written by George Washington University graduate student Chris Yeazel on the U.S. Army's employment of indigenous troops as auxiliaries in America's colonial period in the Philippines. It is being serialized in our newsletter. Editor*

The U.S. Army employed from ally integrated auxiliary units composed of Filipinos as a means of cheaply and effectively policing its newly acquired Philippine possessions following the Spanish-American war. From humble beginnings as informal auxiliaries during the Philippine Insurrection, these units would eventually come to form the core of the Army's Philippine Division in the decades to come as fully integrated Philippine Scout units. Despite suffering from unequal wages and leadership that often did not understand their culture, they provided invaluable service to the United States by serving as the backbone of the Philippine Division for the first decades of the Twentieth Century. Although dissension resulting from unequal treatment was widespread among the Scouts at times, their loyalty was ultimately demonstrated by their valiant service fighting the Japanese in the early stages of World War II.

See *America's Sepoys* Page 7

### The Story of the Invasion of Japan (Cont.)

By James Martin Davis

*This is the second installment of the Davis article recounting plans and projections for the invasion of Japan. Fortunately the use of the atomic bomb against Hiroshima and Nagasaki made this costly invasion unnecessary and probably saved well over a million American and Japanese lives.*

During the early morning hours of November 1, 1945, the actual invasion would commence. Thousands of American soldiers and marines would pour ashore on beaches all along the eastern, southeastern, southern and western coasts of Kyushu.

The Eastern Assault Force consisting of the 25th, 33rd and the 41st Infantry Divisions, would land near Miyasaki at beaches called Austin, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, and Cord and move inland to attempt to capture this city and its nearby airfield.

The Southern Force consisting of the 1st cavalry Division, the 43rd Division and Americal Division would land inside Ariake Bay at beaches labeled DeSoto, Dusenburg, Essex, Ford, and Franklin and attempt to

See *Story of the Invasion* Page 12

*The Engagement Ring* by Sue Trout page.....7

## The Engagement Ring

by Sue Trout

I have told the detailed story of a wounded young American soldier who gave his mother 's engagement ring to my mother, Lt. Frankie Lewey, so often that both of my children know it word by word. The ring was given to Lt. Lewey to keep it out of the enemy's hands and prevent it from going to Japan. It was not a temporary 'hold this until after the war' ring; it was an out-right gift for her to remember him by, so he would not become an unknown, forgotten soldier. She remembered him to me and I remembered him to my daughter and son.

Frankie Lewey would not have to think of their faces later on, recalling seeing them as she was deserting them when they needed her the most, if they did not see her depart. She was shamed by leaving and tried to sneak out without being seen. She held her head down and watched the ground where she walked, crying as she carried her bags along the edge of the hospital, keeping the patients to her backside. She hoped that IF she had her back to them, no one would see her go. IF her back was

to them, maybe no one would speak to her because they could not see her face, the tears. Moreover, crying was unprofessional.

Frankie feared someone would speak to her, she hoped no one would; but he did. He saw her and he called out to her, "Nurse, Nurse"; she could not ignore him, the only one to speak to her or to look straight at her as she was leaving. She went to him to take care of what she could do for him, hoping no one else would say a word to her. He wanted to talk. He wanted to keep his mother's engagement ring from the Japanese. He wanted to be remembered and not forgotten and he gave his mother's engagement ring to Frankie to keep forever.

No one else saw Frankie leave and they did not look toward her or call out to her as she left. On the way to Corregidor, she wondered why he had that ring in the Philippines instead of leaving it at home. She kept his mother's engagement ring safe. She tried for years to remember his name, and it never came to her. She was so ashamed of herself when she told me his story that she looked down when she said she could not recall

his name no matter how hard she tried. She gave his mother's ring to me.

Nine years ago, I gave his mother's engagement ring to my now 31-year-old daughter. She occasionally wears his mother's engagement ring. The young wounded soldier at Field Hospital #2 on Bataan ... I worry she will forget the story's details - the engagement ring of the mother of a young wounded soldier on Bataan who wanted to be remembered - I wish I knew his name. I wish I could tell her.

*Sue Trout's mother, an Army nurse, was one of the 99 U.S. military nurses trapped in the Philippines by the outbreak of WWII. Imprisoned at Santo Tomas Internment Camp by the victorious Japanese, she survived and married one of the GIs who liberated her. Sue is a frequent contributor to our PSHS message board and asks that the piece be attributed to The Flying Column Writing Project, Lt Col Walter J Landry, USA ret, Richard J. Seron, J.D., and Susan J. Trout. She can be contacted at: 14132 128th Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034-1575. Tel: 425-823-7093; rainbowtrout1@earthlink.net or sjtrout2@hotmail.com.*

### America's Sepoys From Page 6

The Spanish government surrendered the Philippines to the United States on August 14, 1898. This left the U.S. Army with units deployed indefinitely on the opposite side of the globe, a capacity it had never before been used. The U.S. found itself with enough troops in the region to secure only the city of Manila, the focal point of U.S. strategy in the Philippines. On August 17, 1898, the War Department issued a statement declaring that the mission of the Army 8th Corps, which had seized the Philippines, would be to obtain rule of law in the city of Manila, and demanded that all Filipinos recognize the authority of the American military occupation. Percep-

tions of the situation on the ground in the Philippines differed widely between the officials of the McKinley administration in Washington, and the Army personnel who were deployed in Manila.

The American military personnel deployed to the Philippines noted the rhetoric of Emilio Aguinaldo, a former anti-Spanish resistance leader. Aguinaldo greeted the American military authorities by demanding a joint U.S.-Filipino occupation of Manila. When they rejected this idea, Aguinaldo surrounded the city with his army of guerilla fighters, which had recently fought alongside the Americans in ousting the Spanish.

An uneasy truce persisted for several months. By February 1899, between 15,000 and 40,000 Filipinos had joined Aguinaldo's forces in besieging American-occupied Manila. The number of Americans in Manila reached 20,800. Finally, after several months of failed negotiations and several minor skirmishes, large scale fighting broke out between Americans and Filipinos on February 4, 1899 when an American sentry shot a Filipino man who was attempting to cross a bridge into American-held territory. The bloody battle which followed was to be the beginning of an anti-U.S. uprising that would en-

See *America's Sepoys* Page 10



## 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:

**Sgt. Gary Hurd** has formed two units of the **26th US Cavalry (PS) Memorial Regiment**. These units are similar in their activities to the reenactors who have rejuvenated the Alexander Nininger Chapter in Los Angeles. **Troop A** is located at Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines and **Troop B** at Lone Star Station, Texas.

New Troop A members include **Pastor Rizalito M. Gabilo**, Chaplain; **Dr. Jorge Villamil, DVM**, Veterinary Officer; **Gabriel 'Gabby' La O**, Stable Corporal; and his wife **Rina**.

The troop's new XO, Officer Candidate **Edgar 'Guy' Hilbero**, "designed and largely built a new memorial to **Capt. Colin P. Kelley**, who with his crew, on the 3rd day of WWII in Pamanga, flew an unescorted and lightly-

armed B-17, attacking massed, Japanese forces in Northern Luzon. Hit badly on the return to Clark, he got his entire crew out of the crippled plane, but could not exit himself, before the fatal crash." The dedication ceremony was held on December 10.

**Capt. Scott Slaten**, CO of the Memorial Regiment, is a retired regular army major, military historian, cavalry trooper, military art collector, and illustrator.

**Gary** is considering establishing a third troop in California.

**Bob Capistrano's** collection of Philippine Scout insignias and Philippine Army patches and memorabilia, much of it originally owned by his father, was on display December through February as part of the Fighting Filipinos Exhibit at

the San Francisco Main Public Library. The exhibit moved to the State Fund Building in San Francisco until the end of March. Bob plans to make it available for the PSHS conference in May.

**Malcolm Decker** has received good local press coverage, including a front page article on Veterans Day about his book, *On A Mountainside* and then a week later an editorial about the book accompanied by the purchase of 30 copies to resell to the public. His new book, *"From Bataan to Safety: The Rescue of 104 American Soldiers in the Philippines,"* will be printed by McFarland Publishing in late spring or early summer. A website developed by his son is at <http://www.malcolmdecker.net>.

## Chapter News

**Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter: BG. Oscar Hilman** (AUS Ret.), a PSHS Tacoma Chapter life member, is guest speaker for the Bataan Day Memorial on April 9, 2008. This event at the Rizal Park in Seattle will commemorate the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor and honor WWII Filipino veterans. **General Hilman** was commander of the 81st Brigade combat team, Washington National Guard, in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, and Deputy commanding General I Corps and Fort Lewis. He and his wife **Patty** are planning to attend the 24th PSHS National Reunion.

**Joe and Goody Calugas** are attending the 66th anniversary commemoration of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor and the Death March on April 5, 2008 at the Filipino Community Center in Seattle. This will be hosted by the Bataan-

Corregidor Survivors Association and their families.

**Art Garcia** attended the Buffalo Soldier Tacoma Chapter meeting at the Lakewood City hall. The last buffalo soldier lives in Tacoma, "a 92 year old who still looked sharp". Chapter members were wearing the old traditional cavalry uniform with the black campaign hat and yellow bandana. Art felt part of the group, as he was wearing his 1899 U.S. cavalry uniform. A Buffalo Soldier Museum has recently been constructed in Tacoma.

New Chapter members are **Larry G. Cambroner**, grandson of **Sgt. Rufino Cambroner**, **Co. D 57th Infantry (PS)**; **BG Oscar B. Hilman** AUS Ret.; **James Malesky** Sgt., **205th Coast Artillery**; **Col. Ricardo F. Viajar** (PA) Ret., formerly with 44th Infantry (PS) and uncle of **Goody Viajar Calugas**.

The **Capt. Jose C. Calugas, Sr. Chapter** has a total of (65) members (4) annual and (61) life members.

**Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter:** The Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter will host the 24th Annual reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society to be held May 23-24, 2008 at the *Embassy Suites*, San Francisco Airport - Burlingame. The \$40 registration fee is unchanged from the past several years and covers the banquet, dance, hospitality hours, educational programs and business sessions. **Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba**, who led the investigation of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib, has tentatively agreed to be our speaker. He is the son of a former Philippine Scout.

The theme and attire set for the reunion are *"Let's Swing It! WWII and the Fabulous Forties"*. **Chapter President**

**Cion Rael** reports that the event "will be a tribute to our heroes, our Philippine Scout fathers and mothers."

**Lt. Alexander R. Nininger:** Recently reactivated by a group of Filipino-American reenactors, this Los Angeles area chapter has thirteen annual and four life members. They include the following: **Sen. John Patterson** (National President), **Dr. Bill Torio**, **LTC. Ed Ramsey**, **Philip Garcia** (Chapter President), **Gil Mislang**, **Teddy Ortega**, **Brig. Gen. Antonio Ortega**, **Ray Ortega**, **Victor Verano**, **Rudy Cabigas**, **Frank Lopez**, **Feliciano Mislang**, **Rodolfo Mislang**, **Joveno De la Vega**, **Gilbert Rabuco**, **Chito Mandap** and **Willie Manaksa**. The chapter has an online forum at <http://pinoyhistory.proboards22.com/index.cgi?board=nininger>.

One of the new annual members, **Victor Verano** just came back on a pilgrimage to Bataan and toured the sacred grounds of the battlefields of Bataan. He has posted a few of his photos and described his trip on the



Re-enactors from the Nininger Chapter

reenactors' website.

Chapter members will conduct flag ceremonies and **Teddy Ortega** will perform the bugle calls at the upcoming reunion. A 13 minute slide/video show presentation promo about the "Nininger" LA Chapter will be shown.

**LTC Loyd E. Mills Chapter:** No activities reported.

**Monterey County Chapter:** No activities reported.

**Gen. John I. Pershing Chapter (El Paso):** No chapter activities were reported.

## In Memoriam

**Salvador "Sal" A. Abad** passed away on December 11 in San Francisco at age 87. A native of Manila, Sal enlisted in the 26th Cavalry (PS) on February 3, 1941, and survived combat, the Bataan Death March and incarceration as a POW. He was an active member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and the American Legion's Ex-POW Luziminda Chapter in San Francisco. Mr. Abad is survived by his wife Gloria, four sons and several grandchildren.

**Dominador A. Guevarra**, 57th Infantry (PS), passed away on March 6, 2007 aged 88 years. Originally from Capas, Tarlac, he enlisted in the Scouts

in February 1941, then survived combat, the Bataan Death March and POW camp. Guevarra immigrated to the U.S. in 1967 and worked as an engineer and was living in Morton Grove, Illinois at his death. He is survived by his wife Luningning, three sons and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Dr. Alex Kelly**, 90, surgeon for the 57th Infantry (PS), passed away September 22, 2007 in Washington, D.C. He was drafted into the Army Medical Corps in 1941 and sent to the Philippines. He survived the Bataan Death March, POW camp, a Hell Ship and prison in Yokohama and Nagata, Japan. Dr.

Kelly, originally from Augusta, Georgia, lived in Bethesda, Maryland for the last 54 years. He is survived by three sons, a sister, a brother and six grandchildren. His wife passed away in 2005.

**In Memoriam Contributions:** The following additional members contributed since our last newsletter in memory of **Col. Mel Rosen: Celso F. Aurelio, Malcolm Decker, Gloria Plante, Ed Ramsey family, Joe Calugas family, Calugas Chapter, and LTC & Mrs. Exequiel R. Sevilla, Jr.** Donations to the PSHS in memory of Mel now total \$1,450.



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gulf the entire Philippine Archipelago, and test the dedication of the U.S. to maintaining rule in its newly acquired Pacific possession.

The deployed U.S. Army Units encountered extreme difficulties during their initial attempts to subdue the uprising. An examination of reports from returning U.S. expeditions reveals that they were forced to use unpaved roads that were susceptible to frequent floods, and depended on outdated and inaccurate Spanish maps. The insurrection had promoted a general distrust of the native population among the American authorities attempting to quell it, which in many cases led to a reluctance to rely upon them as guides or for intelligence. In other cases, the natives selected as scouts proved to be unreliable in their knowledge of local terrain. These difficulties led American military authorities to examine unorthodox solutions to the difficulties they were encountering with local terrain, language, and cultural knowledge.

The idea of using auxiliary troops drawn from the indigenous population of the Philippines was first formally proposed to U.S. authorities by First Lieutenant Matthew Batson in a memo dated July 16, 1899 and addressed to the Adjutant General of the 8th Army Corps. He proposed the creation of a force of natives drawn from the city of Macabebe designed to arm "one or two hundred" Macabebes and use them to assist American forces in navigating the network of streams which crisscrossed the island of Luzon. He noted the "friendly attitude of the Macabebes and their manifest desire to cooperate with the American forces" as further reason to believe that they could make a contribution to the American counterinsurgency.

The effectiveness of auxiliary units drawn from subject populations had been well established by other colonial powers by the time Batson made his

proposal to General Lawton. Perhaps the most notable example was that of the British Sepoys who had made the British Raj possible in India. Employed originally by the East India Company, and later formally integrated into the Royal Army, the sepoy units were units of Indians led by British officers. Nearly eighty percent of the soldiers that served the Army of the British Raj in India were sepoy units drawn from India's warrior castes. Despite bloody mutinies in 1806 and 1857 which jeopardized the entire British enterprise in India, the sepoy units fought for the British with devastating effect, both inside and outside India. Their service continued well into the 20th century.

The Spanish made extensive use of indigenous forces during their occupation of the Philippines, most notably the same Macabebe tribe that Batson proposed making use of in his memo. The Macabebes possessed a deep hatred towards both Tagalogs, the dominant ethnic group found on the island of Luzon, where is located; and to Aguinaldo's declared Philippine Republic. They had been fiercely loyal to the Spanish during their occupation, and demonstrated their willingness for similar loyalty to the Americans once they assumed dominion over the Philippines in 1901. In addition to the experiences of their European contemporaries, American military officers had learned from their own experiences the importance of cooperating with indigenous allies during the Indian Wars fought on the prairies and deserts of the American West in the late 19th century.

In addition to the insight into local terrain and culture such units could provide to the U.S., local auxiliaries provided another advantage convenient to political leaders conscious of the rising costs of empire. Another incentive for the creation of Philippine auxiliary units was financial: they could be paid

less than American troops for doing the same job. The policy of unequal pay for identical work was justified to Filipinos as a gesture of foresight designed to preserve social stability and prevent the envy of Filipinos who were receiving local wages. It would return to haunt American governing authorities in the decades to come.

The significance of the service the Macabebes had provided to the Spanish, and their potential as a military asset, were recognized by Major General Henry Lawton. Contemporaries of General Lawton attribute to him the belief that the Philippine Insurrection could be won only through the use of indigenous troops. In a correspondence occurring after the death of General Lawton, a subordinate ascribes to him the belief that "General Lawton from the moment he landed in Manila until his death placed great importance and faith in the necessity and usefulness of native troops." Lawton approved Batson's plan on September 9, 1899, and was quickly vindicated in his belief that native troops would be invaluable to American efforts at securing stability in the Philippines.

Batson immediately formed several companies of Macabebe Scouts. On September 10th, he formed the first company. By October 20th, he had formed three additional companies. From September 10, 1899 to October 10th, 1899, Batson and one American Non-Commissioned officer operated alone with these newly created auxiliary forces, patrolling rivers and intercepting bands of insurgents. The early experiences of Lieutenant Batson revealed to his peers not only that the idea of auxiliary units composed of Filipinos was a viable one, but that Americans could rely upon Filipinos in combat. An examination of reports from two expeditions conducted against Filipino insurgents in 1900 reveals they high regard in which



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they were held by the American officers which headed the expeditions.

The value of the Macabebe Scouts was dramatically revealed during an October 1899 expedition under the direct command of General Lawton. The expedition was tasked with securing from insurgents a stretch of the Rio Grande de la Pampanga River running roughly from the town of San Luis to the town of San Isidro. This territory is part of the vast network of rivers that run through the interior of central Luzon, territory which would have been highly discouraging to American forces given their previous experience with operating in the Philippine hinterland. Attached to this expedition were two companies of Macabebe Scouts commanded by Lieutenant Batson. A study of telegraphic correspondence between the officers

commanding the expedition reveals that the Scouts had already built a positive reputation less than two months after their inception.

In a telegram dated October 18th, General Lawton explained to General Theodore Schwann, Army Chief of Staff in Manila, that "the Macabebe scouts doing excellent services and proving model soldiers for this service. They are worth twice their number of our inexperienced men." Lawton continued by remarking on the financial benefits of employing the scouts rather than American soldiers, and concluded by requesting that additional companies of Macabebes be attached to his expedition. In another telegram dated October 30th, a subordinate commander notes the growing reputation of the Macabebes in a correspondence with Maj. General

Lawton, declaring that the Macabebes "will have a wholesome effect on any scattering bands of insurgents."

The example set by Batson's Scouts spurred the creation of numerous other units composed of indigenous troops. Dozens of such units were formed during this time period, although none are as well documented as Batson's Scouts. At approximately the same time as Batson's Scouts were formed, a company of Tagalog Scouts, known as "Lowe's Scouts," were formed. In January 1900, records suggest that three companies of native scouts were in the process of formation on the island of Negros, but unfortunately further records pertaining to these units have not been located. On April 3, 1900, President McKinley authorized the organization of a squadron

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of Philippine Cavalry under the command of Batson, who had recently been promoted directly from First Lieutenant to Major. From May to December, 1900, several additional companies of native Scouts were formed, drawing from the provinces of Samar, Ilocano, and Leyte.

A series of General Orders soon enshrined the status of indigenous scouts as formally recognized auxiliary units of the U.S. Army. On January 16, 1901, General Arthur MacArthur issued General Order No. 11, which created uniform pay for Scout units; declared the scouts subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and determined that the scouts would receive the same standard Army ration that American soldiers deployed overseas received. This order was expanded upon by General Order No. 510, issued on October 8, 1901. General Order No. 510 was issued by the War Department in Washington, and directed that scout units, heretofore to be known as "Philippine Scouts (PS)," were in the service of the United States. They would be enlisted and included in the official muster rolls of the United States Army, and paid from Regular Army appropriations. Enlistments of Philippine Scouts would be for a period of three years. Thus began the formal history of one of the most unique experiments in the history of the U.S. Army.

This new status saw dramatic changes to the culture and appearance of Philippine Scouts units. Now recognized as members of the U.S. Army, Philippine Scouts were issued the same uniforms and equipment of their American counterparts. They drilled according to American standards, and were subject to the same Uniform Code of Military Justice. Despite the fact that they were held to equal standards, Scouts received pay that averaged half that of American soldiers of comparable rank and grade. As General Batson had noted two years

earlier, the Scouts proved quite a financial bargain.

Ultimately, it was a unit of Macabebe Scouts that made possible the capture of Emilio Aguinaldo in an audacious operation in 1901. In February of that year, American officers acting on broken code and intelligence received from captured Filipinos pinpointed Aguinaldo's location to the village of Palanan in the Isabella province in northern Luzon. They conceived of a daring plan to capture Aguinaldo using Macabebe Scouts posing as guerilla fighters friendly to Aguinaldo. The four officers who masterminded the plan posed as captured high-ranking American officers. The plan called for the Macabebes to march into Aguinaldo's camp, and present the officers to Aguinaldo. Once Aguinaldo revealed himself, they would overwhelm his guards, capture him and bring him back through the American lines.

The party departed for Palanan on March 6, 1900. Despite a grueling 100 mile march through dense jungle to the village where Aguinaldo was located, the plan was executed almost flawlessly. Aguinaldo was captured by the Macabebes on the twenty-third of March, and called upon the Filipino people to accept the authority of the United States on April 19.

The United States formally declared the Philippine Insurrection defeated in 1902. The term of the enlistment for the beleaguered volunteers and Regulars who had borne the brunt of the fighting had now largely expired. By 1916, with the onset of the First World War, the number of American soldiers in the Philippines had dropped to 14,400. By 1917, it reached 9,300, and by 1918, it had plummeted to 5,200 with the dispatch of an expedition to Siberia to secure U.S. commercial interests in the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution. As the units of American regulars and

volunteers disbanded and returned to the continental United States, the Philippine Scouts would continue to bear the burden of policing the American possessions in the Philippines. The year 1913 saw a series of particularly fierce engagements for the Scouts.

One such area of unrest was the primarily Islamic Moro province, located on the southern island of Mindanao. The Moros had consistently proven a source of irritation for American authorities. Over the course of late 1912 and early 1913, they had engaged American forces in a variety of skirmishes, and been met by harsh reprisals from American regular Army units. Following these reprisals, up to 10,000 Moros, including women and children, fled to the volcanic mountain Bud Bagsak and prepared themselves for a confrontation with American colonial authorities. A temporary truce was negotiated by the sultan of Sulu, resulting in an uneasy peace that was terminated when the Moros began sporadically firing into the town of Jolo. Again, the Moros withdrew to Bud Bagsak. In June of 1913, a detachment of Scouts under the command of Brigadier General John Pershing, who would later win the title "Black Jack" for his association with African-American soldiers. On June 15, Pershing decided to attack the heavily fortified Moro positions with the 51st and 52nd Philippine Scout Companies, both primarily composed of Moros.

The result was devastating for the Moros. Following a pitched battle which saw fearsome hand-to-hand combat between members of the same tribe, 500 Moros were dead, including up to 50 women and children. Pershing's Scouts suffered only fifteen dead and twenty-five wounded. The action of the Scouts at the battle of Bud Bagsak ended the unrest in the Moro province. General Pershing declared that the actions of the 51st and 52nd companies "probably

have not been equaled so far since the American occupation of the Philippine Islands." Following the action at Bud Bagsak, Pershing recommended the removal of all American soldiers from the Philippine Islands, to be replaced solely with indigenous units.

Another challenge to American rule in the Philippines arose from the Pulahanes, a mysterious religious sect which became associated with various forms of banditry in the provinces of Samar and Leyte. Samar, the province in which the Pulahane movement originated, was an impoverished region which had seen brutal fighting between the indigenous population and U.S. authorities. The Pulahanes earned their name from the word "pula," which described the red uniform many of them wore. Although the exact orientation of their beliefs is uncertain, it is known that they blended aspects of Catholicism with local Visayan mysticism. The Pulahanes frequently ambushed patrols of the fledgling Philippine Army. In addition to these frequent ambushes, the Pulahanes conducted frequent raids of coastal towns in which they would steal food and plunder, stage kidnappings, and target civil servants in savage attacks designed to undermine local authority.

In February of 1905, General Henry Allen was placed in charge of an expedition to quell what became known as the "Pulahane outbreak." He took advantage of the language and cultural skills unique to the Scouts, employing them in a capacity that could be viewed as a precursor to modern-day civil affairs operations. Allen placed the Scouts in villages that contained Pulahanes in an effort to acquire intelligence about their intentions in. In addition to communicating with locals in an effort to gain intelligence, the Scouts were used to protect these communities, and to uncover Pulahane supply caches. Records reveal that the intelligence acquired by the Scouts was catalogued by their of-

ficers in detailed records organized by name, age, physical description, and a brief history of any previous record of opposing U.S. rule.

The scouts also fought in many smaller engagements during the decades following Aguinaldo's capture. An examination of casualty reports reveals that the Scouts took casualties at 28 separate engagements in the years between 1901 and 1935, in locations dispersed throughout the island chain. Most of these engagements were minor skirmishes which inflicted minimal casualties upon Scout units.

Although perhaps the most useful skill Philippine auxiliary troops could provide to the United States was their mastery of the many local languages, this advantage proved to be a double edged sword for the American officers who commanded them. Some insight into the communication difficulties encountered between Philippine Scouts and their American officers can be discerned from an examination of Philippine Scout Officer efficiency reports from the 4th Philippine Infantry Regiment, headquartered at Fort Mills, Luzon, dated 1920. These reports, conducted to screen officers eligible for promotion in the unit, reveal that knowledge of Filipino languages was extremely rare among American officers. Indeed, only two officers out of several dozen screened for promotion possessed any knowledge of Filipino languages, one of whom was a native Filipino.

An examination of the officer reports efficiency reports from Fort Mills reveals another interesting aspect of the Philippine Scouts. The Act of Congress which established the Scouts, also made provisions for the specially selected appointment of Filipinos as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army, including 4 handpicked Filipinos who would attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. The 4th Philippine Infantry Regiment in-

cluded one such officer, First Lieutenant Rafael Garcia. Formerly a Major in the Philippine National Guard, his officer efficiency report indicates that he was held in extremely high regard by his peers. His fluency in English, Spanish, French and Tagalog would have made him an highly valuable commodity to his superior officers. Only one other officer in the Regiment, Captain Frank Pyle, could speak an indigenous language, Tagalog.

More illustrative of the officers of this unit was Captain Raymond S. Bowman, describe by his evaluator as a former "journey man printer." Captain Bowman was not married, and had no experience in higher education. He spoke some Spanish. While "lacking in higher education," his peers found him "a valuable practical officer."

An examination of language tests reveals a great deal of insight into the contrast between officers and enlisted men when it came to skills in local languages. An April 1920 test conducted by the officers of M Company, 4th Philippine Infantry Regiment reveals that of 87 enlisted Filipinos, 42 spoke English, 34 spoke Spanish, 83 spoke Visayan, and various other languages such as Tagalog were also spoken. This huge disparity reveals why the Scouts provided such a tremendous asset to their American officers. It is impossible to successfully navigate in a land where you don't understand the language.

The communication barrier was overcome at first by improvisation, and later by the teaching of English as the official language of the Scouts. At first, a mixture of Spanish, English, and native languages unique to each unit that emerged as the lingua franca between officers and enlisted during the early development of the Philippine Scouts. An examination of test papers dating from 1904 reveal that Scouts were instructed

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on subjects such as military law, close order drill and ceremony, protocol for sentinels, and weapons inspections in Spanish, and taught only how to receive commands in English. However, this changed with time. By 1924, the use of English was expected by the Scouts at all times. In some units, Scouts received English classes and English-language instruction on topics such as drill and ceremony, military tactics, and military topography. A memorandum dated July 1915 from Fort Stuart Hay reveals that in addition to topics such as bugle practice and Infantry drill, an average day of training for the scouts included English language instruction in Signal Drill, Field Service Regulations, Military Topography and Sketches, Interior Guard Duty, and First Aid.

The soldiers of the Philippine Scouts received the same vocational training

that their American enlisted counterparts received. An examination of duty rosters and school assignments reveals that a sample of vocational training for a Philippine Scout unit included cobblers, horseshoers, and blacksmiths. In addition to such mandatory training, Scouts were also eligible for assignment at the Army's elite training schools, such as the Army Gas Warfare School, an intensive 10 day school run out of Fort William McKinley.

The officers of the Philippine Scouts also placed a premium on engaging in organized competitive sports as a means to build camaraderie in their units, and build morale. An examination of the schedule for a field day held at Camp John Hay in July 1915 reveals that chariot races, baseball, and a "Japanese Lantern Race" were all held. Organized Competitive Sports were also encour-

aged, with competitions fielded in events such as bayonet fencing, and track and field events such as the 100 yard dash, pole vault, 120 yard hurdle, and running broad jump.

In addition to this broad range of training in the garrison environment, the Philippine Scouts also took to the field in order to ready themselves to execute their orders. An examination of a memorandum from the 2nd Battalion Philippine Scouts, headquartered at Camp John Hay, reveals the details of such a field training exercise held in January of 1917. Soldiers were instructed to bring a blanket, poncho, "mosquito bar," pair of underwear, and pair of stockings into the field with them for a four day training exercise.

To be continued in our next issue.

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capture Shibushi and to capture, further inland, the city of Kanoya and its surrounding airfield. On the western shore of Kyushu, at beaches Pontiac, Reo, Rolls Royce, Saxon, Star, Studebaker, Stutz, Winton, and Sephyr, the V Amphibious Corps would land the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Marine Divisions, sending half of its force inland to Sendai and the other half to the port city of Kagoshima.

On November 4th. the reserve force, consisting of the 81st, and 98th Infantry Division, and the 11th Airborne Division, after feigning an attack on the island of Shikoku would be landed, if not needed elsewhere, near Kaimondake, near the southern-most tip of Kagoshima Bay, at beaches designated Locomobile, Lincoln, LaSalle, Hupomobile, Moon, Mercedes, Maxwell, Overland, Packard, and Plymouth.

The objective of "Olympic" was to seize and control the island of Kyushu in order to use it for the launching platform for "Coronet," which was hoped

to be a final blow aimed at Toyko and the Kanto Plain.

"Olympic" was not just the plan for the invasion, but for conquest and occupation as well. It was expected to take four months to achieved its objective, with three American Divisions per month to be landed in support of that operation if needed. These additional troops were to be taken from the units scheduled for "Coronet."

If all went well with "Olympic," on March 1, 1946, "Coronet" would be launched. "Coronet" would be twice the size of "Olympic," with as many as 28 American Divisions to be landed on Honshu, the main Japanese island.

On March 1, 1946, all along the coast east of Tokyo, then entire 8th and 10th Armies would strike north and east to clear the long western shore of Tokyo Bay, and attempt to go as far as Yokohoma. The assault troops, landing to the south of Tokyo would be the 4th, 6th, 8th, 24th, 31st, 32nd, 37th, 38th, and

87th Infantry Divisions, along with the 13th and 20th Armored Divisions.

Following the initial assault, eight more Divisions--the 2nd, 28th, 35th, 91st, 95th, 97th, and 104th Infantry Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division would be landed. If additional troops were needed, as expected, other Divisions redeployed from Europe and undergoing training in the United States would be shipped to Japan in what was hoped to be the final push.

The key to victory in Japan rested in the success of "Olympic" at Kyushu. Without the success of the Kyushu campaign, "Coronet" might never be launched. The key to victory in Kyushu rested with our firepower, much of which was to be delivered by carrier launched aircraft.

At the onset of the invasion of Kyushu, waves of Helldivers, Dauntless Dive Bombers, Avengers, Corsairs and Hellcats would take off to bomb,

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rocket and strafe enemy defenses, gun emplacements and troop concentrations along the beaches. In all, there would be 66 aircraft carriers loaded with 2,649 naval and marine aircraft to be used for close-in air support for soldiers hitting the beaches.

These planes were also the fleets primary protection against Japanese attack from the air. Had "Olympic" begun, these planes would be needed to provide an umbrella of protection for the soldiers and sailors of the invasion. Captured Japanese documents and post-war interrogation of Japanese military leaders disclose that our intelligence concerning the number of Japanese planes available for defense of the home islands were dangerously in error.

In the last months of the war, our military leaders were deathly afraid of the Japanese "kamikaze" and with good cause. During Okinawa alone, Japanese aircraft sank 32 ships and damaged over 400 others. During the summer months, our top brass had concluded that the Japs had spent their air force, since American bombers and fighters flew unmolested over the shores of Japan on a daily basis.

What our military leaders did not know was that by the end of July, 1945, as part of the Japanese overall plan for the defense of their country, they had been saving all aircraft, fuel and pilots in reserve, and had been feverishly building new planes for the decisive battle for their homeland. The Japs had abandoned, for the time, their suicide attacks in order to preserve their pilots and planes to hurl at our invasion fleets.

The plan for the final defense of Japan was called "Ketsu-Go" and a large part of that plan called for the use of the Japanese Naval and Air Forces in defense. Japan had been divided into districts, and in each of these districts hidden airfields were being built and hangers and aircraft were being dispersed and camouflaged in great numbers. Units were being trained, deployed and given final instructions. Still other suicide

units were being scattered throughout the islands of Kyushu and elsewhere, and held in reserve; and for the first time in the war, the Army and Navy Air Forces would be operating under one single unified command.

As part of "Ketsu-Go," the Japanese were building 20 suicide take-off strips in southern Kyushu, with underground hangers for an all out offensive. In Kyushu alone, the Japanese had 36 camouflage airfield and 9 sea plane bases. As part of their overall plan, these seaplanes were to be used in suicide missions as well.

On the night before the invasion, 50 seaplane bombers, along with 100 former carrier aircraft and 50 land based army planes were to be launched in a direct suicide attack on the fleet.

The Japanese 5th Naval Air Fleet and the 6th Air Army had 58 more airfields on Korea, Western Honshu and Shikoku, which were also to be used for massive suicide attacks. Allied Intelligence had established that the Japanese had no more than 2,500 aircraft of which they guessed only 300 would be deployed in suicide attacks. However, in August of 1945, unknown to our intelligence, the Japanese still had 5,651 Army and 7,074 Navy aircraft, for a total of 12,725 planes of all types. During July alone, 1,131 new planes were built and almost 100 new underground aircraft plants were in various stages of construction.

Each village had some type of aircraft manufacturing activity. Hidden in mines, railway tunnels, under viaducts and in basements of department stores, work was being done to construct new planes.

Additionally, the Japanese were building newer and more efficient models of the "Okka" which was a rocket propelled bomb, much like the German V-1, but piloted to its final destination by a suicide pilot. In March of 1945, the Japanese had ordered 750 of the earlier models of the "Okka" to be produced. These aircraft were to be launched from other aircraft. By the summer of 1945,

the Japanese were building the newer models, which were to be catapulted out of caves in Kyushu to be used against the invasion ships which would be only minutes away.

At Okinawa, while almost 10,000 sailors died, as a result of the kamikaze attacks, the kamikaze there had been relatively ineffective, primarily because of distance. Okinawa was located 350 miles from Kyushu and even experienced pilots flying from Japan became lost, ran out of fuel or did not have sufficient flying time to pick out a suitable target. Furthermore, early in the Okinawa campaign. The Americans had established a land based fighter command which, together with the carrier aircraft, provided an effective umbrella of protection against kamikaze attacks.

During "Olympic," the situation would be reversed. Kamikaze pilots would have little distance to travel, would have considerable staying time over the invasion fleet, and would have little trouble picking out suitable targets. Conversely, the American land based aircraft would be able to provide only minimal protection against suicide attack, since these American aircraft would have little flying time over Japan before they would be forced to return to their bases on Okinawa and elsewhere to refuel.

Also, different from Okinawa would be the Japanese choice of targets. At Okinawa aircraft carriers and destroyers were the principal targets of the kamikaze. The targets for the "Olympic" invasion were to be transports carrying the American troops who were to participate in the landing. The Japanese concluded they could kill far more Americans by sinking one troop ship than they could by sinking 30 destroyers. Their aim was to kill thousands of American troops at sea, thereby removing them from the actual landing, "Ketsu-Go" called for the destruction of 700 to 800 American ships.

When invasion became imminent, "Ketsu-Go" called for a four-fold plan

of attack. While American ships were approaching Japan, but still in the open sea, an initial force of 2,000 army and navy fighters were to fight to the death in order to control the skies over Kyushu. A second force of 330 specially trained Navy combat pilots were to take off and attack the main body of the task force to keep it from using its fire support and air cover to adequately protect the troop carrying transports.

While these two forces were engaged, a third force of 825 suicide planes was to hit the American transports in the open seas.

As the convoys approached their anchorages, another 2,000 suicide planes were to be detailed in waves of 200 to 300, to be used in hour by hour attacks that would make Okinawa seem tame by comparison.

American troops would be arriving in approximately 180 lightly armed transports and 70 cargo vessels. Given the number of Japanese planes and the short distance to target, certainly a number of the troop carrying transports would have been hit.

By mid-morning of the first day of the invasion, most of the American land based aircraft would be forced to return to their bases, leaving the defense against the suicide planes to the carrier pilots and the shipboard gunners. Initially, these pilots and gunners would have met with considerable success, but after the third, fourth, and fifth waves of Japanese aircraft, a significant number of kamikaze most certainly would have broken through.

Carrier pilots crippled by fatigue would have to land time and time again to rearm and refuel. Navy fighters would break down from the lack of needed maintenance. Guns would malfunction on both aircraft and combat vessels from the heat of continuous firing, and ammunition expended in such abundance would become scarce. Gun crews would be exhausted by nightfall, but still the waves of kamikaze would continue. With our fleet hovering off the beaches, all remaining Japanese aircraft would

be committed to nonstop mass suicide attacks, which the Japanese hoped could be sustained for ten days.

The Japanese planed to coordinate their kamikaze and conventional air strikes with attacks from the 40 remaining conventional submarines from the Japanese Imperial Navy, beginning when the invasion fleet was 10 miles off Kyushu. As our invasion armada grew nearer, the rate of submarine attacks would increase. In addition to attacks by the remaining fleet submarines, some of which were to be armed with "Long Lance" torpedoes with a range of 20 miles, the Japanese had more frightening plans for death at sea.

By the end of the war, the Imperial Japanese Navy still had 23 destroyers and two cruisers which were operational. These ships were to be used to counterattack the American invasion and a number of the destroyers were to be beached along the invasion beaches at the last minute to be used as anti-invasion gun platforms.

As early as 1944, Japan had established a special naval attack unit, which was the counterpart of the special attack units of the air, to be used in the defense of the homeland. These units were to be saved for the invasion and would make the widespread use of midget submarines, human torpedoes and exploding motor boats against the Americans.

Once off shore, the invasion fleet would be forced to defend not only against the suicide attacks from the air, but would also be confronted with suicide attacks from the sea. Attempting to sink our troop-carrying transports would be almost 300 Kairyu suicide submarines. These two man subs carried a 1,320 pound bomb in their nose and were to be used in close-in ramming attacks.

By the end of the war, the Japanese had 215 Kairyu available with 207 more under construction. With a crew of five, the Japanese Koryu suicide submarine, carrying an even larger explosive charge, was also to be used against the American vessels. By August, the Japanese had

115 Koyru completed, with 496 under construction.

Especially feared by our Navy were the Kaitens, which were difficult to detect, and which were to be used against our invasion fleet just off the beaches. These Kaitens were human torpedoes over 60 feet long, each carried a warhead of over 3,500 pounds and each was capable of sinking the largest of American naval vessels. The Japanese had 120 shore based Kaitens, 78 of which were in the Kyushu area as early as August.

Finally, the Japanese had almost 4,000 Navy Shinyo and Army Liasion motor boats, which were also armed with high explosive warheads, and which were to be used in nighttime attacks against our troop carrying ships.

The principal goal of the special attack units of the air and sea was to shatter the invasion before the landing. By killing the combat troops aboard ships and sinking the attack transports and cargo vessels, the Japanese were convinced the Americans would back off or become so demoralized that they would then accept a less than unconditional surrender and a more honorable and face-saving end for the Japanese.

In addition to destroying as many of the larger American ships as possible, "Ketsu-Go" also called for the annihilation of the smaller offshore landing craft carrying our G.I.'s to the invasion beaches.

The Japanese had devised a network of beach defenses, consisting of electronically detonated mines farthest offshore, three lines of Suicide divers, followed by magnetic mines and still other mines planted all over the beaches themselves.

A fanatical part of the last line of maritime defense was the Japanese suicide frogmen, called "Fukuryu." These "crouching dragons," were divers armed with lunge mines, each capable of sinking a landing craft up to 950 tons. These divers, numbering in the thousands, could stay submerged for up to 10 hours, and were to thrust their explosive

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charges into the bottom of landing craft and, in effect serve as human mines.

As horrible as the defense of Japan would be off the beaches it would be on Japanese soil that the American forces would face the most rugged and fanatical defense that had ever been encountered in any of the theaters during the entire war.

Throughout the island hopping Pacific campaign our troops had always outnumbered the Japanese by two and sometimes three to one. In Japan it would be different. By virtue of a combination of cunning, guesswork and brilliant military reasoning, a number of Japan's top military leaders were to astutely deduce, not only when, but where, the United States would land their first invasion forces. The Japanese positioned their troops accordingly.

Facing the 14 American Divisions landing at Kyushu would be 14 Japanese Divisions, 7 independent mixed brigades, 3 tank brigades and thousands of specially trained Naval Landing Forces. On Kyushu the odds would be three to two in favor of the Japanese, with 790,000 enemy defenders against 550,000 Americans. This time the bulk of the Japanese defenders would not be the poorly trained and ill-equipped labor battalions that the Americans had faced in the earlier campaigns. The Japanese defenders would be the hardcore of the Japanese Home Army. These troops were well fed and well equipped, and were linked together all over Kyushu by instantaneous communications. They were familiar with the terrain, had stockpiles of arms and ammunition, and had developed an effective system of transportation and resupply almost invisible from the air. Many of these Japanese troops were the elite of the Japanese Army, and they were swollen with a fanatical fighting spirit that convinced them that they could defeat these American invaders that had come to defile their homeland.

Coming ashore, the American Eastern amphibious assault forces at Miyazaki

would face the Japanese 154th Division, which straddled the city, the Japanese 211th Division on the coast immediately to the north, and the 156 Division on the coast immediately to the south. Also in place and prepared to launch a counterattack against our Eastern force were the Japanese 25th and 77th Divisions.

Awaiting the Southeastern attack force at Ariake Bay was the entire Japanese 86th Division, and at least one independent mixed brigade.

On the western shores of Kyushu, the Marines would face the most brutal opposition. Along the invasion beaches would be the 146th, 206th and 303 Japanese Divisions, along with the 6th Tank brigade, the 125 Mixed Infantry Brigade and the 4th Artillery Command. Additionally, components of the 25th and 77th Divisions would also be poised to launch counterattacks.

If not needed to reinforce the primary landing beaches, the American Reserve Force would be landed at the base of Kagoshima Bay on November 4th where they would be immediately confronted by two mixed infantry brigades, parts of two infantry divisions and thousands of naval landing forces who had undergone combat training to support ground troops in defense.

All along the invasion beaches our troops would face coastal batteries, anti-landing obstacles, and an elaborate network of fortified pillboxes, bunkers, strongpoints and underground fortresses.

As our soldiers waded ashore, they would do so through intense artillery and mortar fire from pre-registered batteries as they worked their way through tetrahedra and barbed wire entanglements so arranged to funnel them into muzzle of these Japanese guns. On the beaches and beyond would be hundreds of Japanese machine gun positions, beach mines, booby traps, trip-wire mines and sniper units. Suicide units concealed in spider holes would meet the troops as they passed nearby. Just past the beaches and the sea walls would be hundreds of

barricades, trail blocks and concealed strongpoints.

In the heat of battle, Japanese special infiltration units would be sent to reap havoc in the American lines by cutting phone and communication lines, and by indiscriminately firing at our troops attempting to establish a beachhead. Some of the troops would be in American uniform to confuse our troops and English speaking Japanese officers were assigned to break in on American radio traffic to call off American artillery fire, to order retreats and to further confuse our troops.

Still other infiltrators with demolition charges strapped on their chests or backs would attempt to blow up American tanks, artillery pieces and ammunition stores as they were unloaded ashore. Beyond the beaches were large artillery pieces situated at key points to bring down a devastating curtain of fire on the avenues of approach along the beach. Some of these large guns were mounted on railroad tracks running in and out of caves where they were protected by concrete and steel.

The battle for Japan, itself, would be won by what General Simon Bolivar Buckner had called on Okinawa "Prairie Dog Warfare." This type of fighting was almost unknown to the ground troops in Europe and the Mediterranean. It was peculiar only to the American soldiers and marines whose responsibility it had been to fight and destroy the Japanese on islands all over the south and central Pacific. "Prairie Dog Warfare" had been the story of Tarawa, of Saipan, of Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. "Prairie Dog Warfare" was a battle for yards, feet and sometimes even inches. It was a brutal and dangerous form of combat aimed at an underground, heavily fortified, nonretreating enemy. "Prairie Dog Warfare" would be what the invasion of Japan was all about.

To be continued in our next issue.



# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

## 24<sup>th</sup> National Annual Reunion

May 23 – 24, 2008

San Francisco, California



### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DINNER MENU CHOICES : (indicate number of each)

Chicken Chasseur \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Rib Eye Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION CHARGE: \$40.00 Per Person

Please make check payable and mail to:

PSHS GGBAC  
Nilda Malvar, Registration  
P.O. Box 179  
Daly City, CA 94016-0179

- Notes : 1. Upon receipt of your payment, your registration will be confirmed by email or by mail.  
2. R.S.V.P. and payment must be received **NO LATER THAN May 1, 2008.**  
3. Groups / Part of 5 or 10, please list the names on the reverse side of the paper so that we may arrange your sitting accordingly.

**LODGING:** Embassy Suites Hotel San Francisco-Airport/Burlingame  
150 Anza Blvd  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
**Telephone: (650) 342-4600**  
Fax: (650) 343-8137  
**Toll Free: 1-800-EMBASSY**

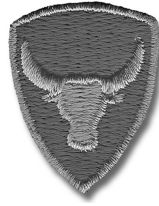
RATES: One to four persons per room: \$149.00 per night plus taxes.

CUT-OFF DATE: **May 1, 2008, 4 PM** after hotel deadline date rooms will be provided on a space, rate and availability basis. It is important that you make your reservation early prior to the cut-off date. When making your reservation, identify yourself as a Philippine Scouts group.



# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

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