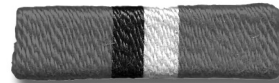
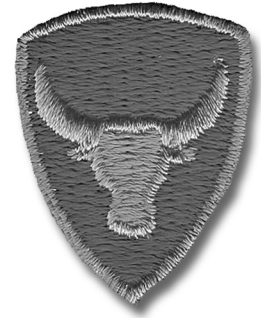


Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



Spring 2010

26th National Reunion and Annual Meeting May 7-8, 2010 in Tacoma, Washington

Attached is a registration form for the 26th National Reunion and Annual Meeting of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society - May 7-8, 2010, in Tacoma, Washington. It will be hosted by the Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter. Captain Calugas was one of three Scouts

to be awarded the Medal of Honor during the early days of World War II. His son, Jose Calugas, Jr., is the Chapter's President.

During the two day reunion, we will have presentations and panels covering a wide variety of topics connected with

the Scouts, including a documentary on the Scouts, a Veterans Panel, Scout artifacts, memorabilia and literature.

I hope to see you in Tacoma.

John A. Patterson, President
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

President's Letter

This is the second newsletter put together by Paul Ruiz. Paul follows Mike Houlahan who was the editor for 8 years. Before them it was Nicoll Galbraith. Thanks go to all three for undertaking this important function over the years. It is a major outreach activity that tells the Philippine Scout story in so many interesting ways.

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society is preparing for its annual reunion in Tacoma, Washington on May 7th and May 8th, 2010. This is a good time to reflect again on this organization and its 26 year history. The Society was formally created in 1989 at the U.S. Army Museum, in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Museum is the official U.S. Government repository for Scout artifacts, memorabilia and other Scout items of historical importance. The collection includes the Medal of Honor awarded to

Sgt. Jose Calugas, Sr., for his gallantry on Bataan. The Medal was donated to the Museum several years ago by Jose Calugas, Jr., and his family.

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

I mention all this because there are World War II veterans' groups which are now leaving the scene. In some cases, they simply wanted to stay together as long as possible and that's it. In

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Editor's Comments

by Paul Ruiz

I am riding the late evening ferry home from San Francisco as I type this, and pondering a mystical connection between the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and this commute at the end of a very long day sitting in an office, most of which was spent in front of a computer. I know there's a connection, I can sense it.

The boat is about 20% full, with everyone either reading, sleeping, or typing on their laptops. A feeling of exhaustion is palpable above the loud hum of the engines which transports us at 40 mph through SF Bay. While I appreciate the rewards of my 22 year insurance career, at times the tedium of 10+ hour days mostly spent behind a desk can take its toll. Adding the trend of corporations demanding higher output with fewer resources makes for longer hours, less time with family, less time for exercise, and higher levels of stress. Don't get me wrong, this does not compare to the alternative – unemployment – as the greater stressor. Still, during moments of reflection, particularly on an evening commute home when one wonders what might have been had one "zigged" rather than "zagged" in life, a very grounding concept for me remains the sacrifices of those in our military, past and present, who chose dramatically different career paths, and the challenges they contended with in relation to their civilian contemporaries.

While I might grouse about not seeing my kids until late in the evening; missing a workout; or having to eat a Subway sandwich in the office for dinner; this of course, remains in a different realm of sacrifice from that of our military veterans. As a former Infantry officer, this should be ingrained in my day to day psyche. Fact is it isn't. I last wore the uniform during the Reagan administration and those memories are now alongside those of high school and college. My life as a middle-aged insur-

ance man is now focused on providing for my wife and 3 children; coaching their soccer teams; and saving for what I am anticipating to be ridiculously high college tuition.

Yet, when I take a moment to reflect on the experiences of others, and in particular the Philippine Scouts who suffered so much in battle and even more in captivity, this redefines the meaning of "stress" for me. I consider how these magnificently trained and dedicated soldiers fought so effectively and courageously against numerically superior, battle hardened Japanese forces landing in droves, and did so for months while simultaneously battling disease and starvation. I imagine how severe their desperation must have been and how anguishing to eventually realize that help would not come. I remember my own father recalling those times on Bataan, eyes watering, as he described hearing planes overhead and hoping against hope that they would be U.S. planes. How he recalled participating in the burial details in the prison camps, and vivid descriptions of limbs partially protruding from the shallow graves. How the extreme hunger that constantly preoccupied the prisoners would be replaced by nausea when the breeze carried the stench of the dead toward them. How fellow Scouts, many of whom were childhood friends, might be talking to him one moment, then covered in flies shortly after dying. And, I consider how many of these soldiers were cut down so early in life – many of them young West Point officers with brilliant minds and seemingly bright futures.

It seems that any of them would find it surreal that anyone could ever complain about working long hours in an office, having to eat at one's desk, and commuting home late at night to a warm house after a long day spent sitting in a chair.

In 1988, shortly after I started working in downtown San Francisco, I

brought my dad to our building to show him around before taking him to lunch. He was 74 at the time, and 2 years away from being diagnosed with leukemia and dying months later. He had joined the Philippine Scouts in 1934 as a 20 year old, fought on Bataan, survived the March and prison camps, fought as a guerrilla, fought in the Korean War, and eventually retired from the Army in 1959. Yet on that day he was wide-eyed as he toured our upscale offices situated in a premier downtown sky rise. I remember being amused by his remark, "This is like the movies." He died 19 years ago in February, 1991, during the outset of the Gulf War. As I recall the details of his visit to my office 22 years ago, I am struck by the divide that separated his life from mine; the sacrifices and suffering he and others went through so that we could live in a free society, and so that I eventually could work in an office in a building "just like the movies." And, I renew both my gratitude to his generation, and in particular to the efforts of the Philippine Scouts.

Our annual reunion scheduled for May 7-8, 2010, provides us with the opportunity to once again commemorate the sacrifices and courage of those who defended the Philippines during the war – from those desperate early months on Bataan and Corregidor, to the tortuous experiences in the prison camps. Included in this newsletter is the registration form as well as the agenda for the reunion weekend. We are honored that General Oscar Hilman will, as he has in the past, figure prominently in our program. I am also looking forward to Anthony Maravillas, Ph.D., as our keynote speaker. The son of a Philippine Scout, Professor Maravillas is passionate about perpetuating the Scout legacy, recognizing the significance of the Scout efforts in the war, and has also addressed the impact that the Scouts have had on subsequent generations.

The reunion will be hosted by the Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter in Tacoma, under the able direction of Joe Calugas, Jr. Joe, his wife Goody, and the Tacoma Chapter have put many hours of work into planning and executing this reunion, and for that we are very grateful.

I want to thank Mike Houlahan, our historian, who continues to be a tremendous resource for the organization both in terms of the depth of his knowledge and his expert guidance. As our former newsletter editor, Mike continues to provide insightful articles to this publication.

I also thank John Patterson, our National President, who has provided

leadership that is both wise and genial. John's longstanding efforts are, in large measure, the reason why the PSHS has continued to flourish.

Lastly and certainly not in the least, I thank Christa Houlahan for her help with our website, www.philippine-scouts.org, as well as the layout of this newsletter. (Christa, I will eventually be more disciplined with deadlines which I still consider somewhat fluid).

Our fathers, grandfathers, and uncles distinguished themselves as members of what may have been the most battle ready outfit at the outset of the war, the elite Philippine Scouts. Within these

ranks are three members who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Our membership also includes historians, authors and academicians with whom we commonly share an admiration of these outstanding soldiers and their rightful place in history. Regardless of our individual connections to the PSHS, it is clear to me that the ongoing participation and interest in this organization is not only an effort to help perpetuate the legacy of these fine soldiers, but is also a labor of love that commemorates their heroic deeds.

We look forward to seeing you in Tacoma.

First Vice-President's Letter

The 26th National reunion, hosted by the Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter, will be held at La Quinta Inn & Suites in Tacoma, Washington on May 7-8, 2010.

The annual reunions and meetings have taken a new approach not only in getting together, but inviting guest speakers, power point presentations, displays, and the involvement of the Philippine Scouts re-enactors. The 26th reunion will have these covered.

Presentations will include those by Mrs. Alice F. Peeples, author of "Child POW, a Memory of Survival," that eventually will be made into a movie, and Mr. Anthony Zendejas, a high school senior, his research and art work.

Dr. Anthony R. Maravillas "Pensacola Convoy", Victor Verano, Gil Mislang, Living history project from Lt. Alexander Nininger chapter, Donald Plata "Forgotten Soldier."

Dr. Fred and Dorothy Cordova "Help me understand My Connection," session

for Generations X /Young professionals (first, second, third generations sons and daughters of the Scouts, Joe Calugas moderator, Veterans Panel (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan), BG. Oscar B. Hilman General's Panel and finally the Displays of artifacts/ memorabilia from the Philippine Scouts Era.

A dinner program on May 8 features Anthony R. Maravillas Ph.D., Professor of history. Dr. Maravillas is going to talk about "The Lull, March 1942: the Philippine Scouts in Bataan and the Fortified Islands." We will honor the Philippine Scouts Veterans, wives and widows. Our dinner program will conclude with raffle drawings and dancing. The Master of Ceremony will be General Oscar B. Hilman.

I want to thank all of the participants, officers and members of the Tacoma chapter, national and chapters of officers, veterans, guests and friends



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

who made it all possible. Thank you for your support and we will see you at the reunion.

Mabuhay!!!

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

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Newsletter
Paul Ruiz, Editor & Publisher
458 McAllister Dr., Benicia, CA 94510
Spring 2010, Issue 20, Published twice annually
Two Year Subscription: domestic \$10 and overseas \$14

President's Letter From Page 1

other cases, organizations have realized, sometimes too late, that they want their history to be remembered.

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society is fortunate that from the very beginning our efforts not only included the reunion/historical aspects, but also encouraging membership growth and outreach. We wanted to ensure that the Scouts were not only remembered, but that their story would be told in dynamic outreach efforts for years to come. Society members have spoken at various venues, written articles and books, conducted reunions characterized by educational and historical panels and presentations, developed an outstanding newsletter and website and more. We will continue to carry on these activities and look for other opportunities to inform.

There are three pillars that are critical to the Society. I've mentioned one, the U.S. Army museum at Ft. Sam Houston. The second is the organization itself. The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society has Bylaws as a guide, nonprofit 501(c)(3) IRS status and is incorporated in the State of Rhode Island. The third pillar is people. We must continue to tell the Scout story and involve the next generation (and the next and the next) so that the Scouts are never forgotten.

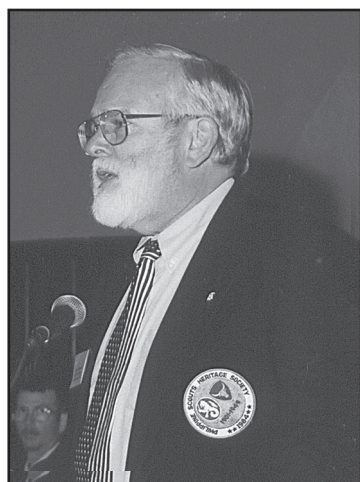
I'm of the next generation. My Uncle Sandy - Lt. Alexander Ramsey Nininger,

Jr. - was also awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism on Bataan. The third Medal of Honor for a Scout was awarded to Capt. Willibald Bianchi for his exploits on Bataan in 1942. On a personal note, I attended the fourth annual ceremony at West Point last September to represent Sandy's family. The Alexander Nininger Award for Valor in Action went to a young Lieutenant who received the Silver Star for his heroism in Iraq.

Reunion - May 7, 2009 & May 8, 2010 - Tacoma, Washington

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

The Jose Calugas, Sr., PSHS Chapter will be hosting the next reunion in Tacoma, Washington on May 7th and 8th 2010. Information regarding the reunion can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website - www.philippine-scouts.org. The Calugas Chapter under Jose Calugas, Jr., is a thriving chapter that has taken a number of initiatives and provided leadership that has wide implications for the whole Society. Thank you Joe for all that you've done for the Society.



John A. Patterson, President
Photo: David Rosen

The reunion program is going to be an exciting event. General Oscar Hilman, a Scout descendent, will lead one of the panels and be engaged in other activities as well. Anthony Rama Maravillas, Ph.D., the son of a Scout will be our keynote speaker at Saturday night's closing dinner. There will also be interesting presentations and panels over the two day period. And, as always, we will have time to make acquaintances and socialize among friends and comrades. I hope to see every one in Tacoma.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Scouts!

Sen. John Patterson, National President
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

Well wishes for John Manguso

John Manguso is the Director of the US Army Museum at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. John had surgery recently and is home recuperating.

Should anyone wish to send him get well sentiments, it can be done via email - John.Manguso@amedd.army.mil.

John has been a staunch supporter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

since it was formed at the Museum in 1989. He has been instrumental in telling the Scout story through his leadership, exhibits, displays which have been set up at Society reunions and through talks to various groups.

The Museum has been named the official US Army repository for all Philippine Scout artifacts, memorabilia and mementos. The Museum has also

been the institutional support that is so important to an organization like the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. The Museum is in good hands with John.

We all wish John a speedy recovery.

John Alexander Patterson, President
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

**Surrender and Survival:
The Ordeal of Lt. Morris Shoss**

By J. Michael Houlahan

It was early September 1944 and they were seventeen days at sea, first on the Eri Maru and then on the Shinyo Maru. There were about 750 of them, all American military POWs. Kept below decks, they were thirsty, starving and ill. The heat was unbearable and the air fetid. What little food and water were made available was lowered into the sweltering, stinking hold in buckets tied to ropes. They suspected these were the same buckets used as toilets. The vessels were two of the infamous Japanese "Hell Ships" used to transport prisoners of war.

Without warning, two torpedoes hit. The submarine USS Paddle had ambushed the convoy, sinking the Shinyo Maru and an empty tanker. In the waning months of the war, unmarked POW ships were sunk in increasing numbers by U.S. bombers and submarines, often with heavy casualties.

Suddenly Shoss was in the water off Mindanao swimming for his life. He had been a distance man on his swim team in high school and at West Point. This saved him. He was temporarily deafened by the torpedo explosions, but otherwise unharmed. "I could see from the bullets zipping in the water around us...and the tracers...that [the Japanese] were firing on us. They had told us that, if they were bombed or torpedoed, they had orders to kill us...."

A Newly Minted Second Lieutenant

Right out of West Point, then-Lt. Morris Shoss accepted responsibility for being in harms way. He had graduated high in his West Point class and had been able to choose his assignment to the 91st Coast Artillery (PS), a crack Philippine Scout unit manned by Filipinos under the command of American officers. His initial battery was an anti-aircraft artillery unit (AAA). Among the unit's duties was the planting of the



largest controlled mine field in history in Manila Bay.

At the outbreak of hostilities, Shoss was assigned to Fort Wint, a long-range seaplane reconnaissance base on a small island in Subic Bay. When the first air attack came, Shoss' AAA unit shot down two Japanese fighters, which allowed the seaplanes to escape destruction by flying further south. With the seaplanes gone, Lt. Shoss and his unit were transferred to Bataan, again supplying anti-aircraft support. While on Bataan, they were credited with downing a record fifteen Japanese airplanes. With Bataan on the verge of surrender, the unit destroyed their weapons and transferred to Corregidor. Theirs was the last unit to do so before the Bataan surrender.

Once they reached Corregidor, Lt. Shoss and his comrades began an artillery duel with the Japanese. Unfortunately most of the artillery on Corregidor consisted of flat trajectory cannon aimed out to sea for use against enemy shipping and was of limited value under

the existing battle conditions.

Initially Morris and his crew were assigned to Battery Morrison, twin six inch rifles, which were destroyed by Japanese counter fire after a single day of combat. Then they manned Battery Grubbs, two eight inch rifles, which also was knocked out after a single day.

Finally they took over a battery of 155mm howitzers. The battery had been knocked out by the Japanese, but Army engineers pieced two howitzers back together and issued them to Morris' unit for use against the Japanese landings. "We were firing directly at the Japanese coming ashore and boy we were wiping them out. And that's where we stayed until they told us to destroy our weapons and to be prepared to surrender...." Shoss and his crews kept firing after they were ordered to cease "because we had such wonderful targets. I mean we were killing them by the droves." A colonel told them that "they're going to court

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martial you if you don't...stop firing. We were the last cannons to continue firing." They then blew up the two guns and told the Scout enlisted men to disperse and, if asked by the Japanese, claim to be cooks.

Prisoner of the Japanese

"They [the Japanese] were looking for those cannoners..." Shoss recalls. "A lot of them spoke English. I think they were American Japanese. They asked us what we did and I said, 'I'm a cook. Is there any way I can cook for the Japanese kitchen?'"

Because the Corregidor surrender occurred a month after Bataan's capitulation, the American and Filipino POWs were not caught up in the Bataan Death March. Initially they were incarcerated at New Bilibid Prison near Manila. Most were eventually transferred to the Cabanatuan POW camp.

In Cabanatuan, the Japanese placed Morris in charge of a work detail. "This was the first time I had American troops under my command. They were the worst....A bunch of thieves. Filipinos would listen to me, but they took away the Filipinos, separated them from the Americans. I could control Filipinos, but, boy, Americans—every man for himself... We drew all these supplies and brought them over, then I find out they were stealing them, they were taking them for themselves. They were setting up areas, groups, where they would just protect themselves and get what they could. Not for the good of the unit, but for their own individual good."

At Cabanatuan he became the officer in charge of a burial detail. Finally they decided to send some American POWs to Japan and some down south to Davao. Shoss was one of the fortunate ones sent to the Davao Penal Colony, on Mindanao, the southern-most large island in the Philippines.

On the trip by train and boat to Davao, the Americans received relatively good treatment. "They fed us well.

They really felt they were winning the war. They let us get on deck and get some fresh air. Actually, one of [our] colonels, who later became a general, jumped over the side of the boat and swam ashore and escaped."

Davao Penal Colony

The penal colony was large and had been an agricultural research center. "Our big job there was planting rice to feed the Japanese army. We were getting hulls and they were getting rice."

They were emaciated, but the biggest danger was from disease. Morris had malaria. "You had to form groups to survive...I had a group that was real tight. It was about four or five of us together." So when one person became ill the others would see to it that his food ration was issued and gotten to him. "We all took turns getting ill....We were all starved. We were skeletons. We were naked too. Our clothing was wearing out." Shoss cut off his pants cuffs and made a little 'quan bag' "Wherever I went on work details...I always had my little 'quan bag' with me so that if I saw anything that looked edible, I'd grab it and put it in my 'quan bag'. I experimented with eating....One of the biggest banquets we had...was when a locust plague hit us....we twisted off the heads, pulled out the guts, tore off the legs and threaded them on a line...We would then make fires and roast these locust. We'd have a banquet! All that wonderful, nutritious food! It tasted like peanuts."

The Japanese would net and clean fish for their own consumption. The bones from the filleted fish would be tossed out in a heap of garbage, covered with flies. Most POWs stayed clear of this pile because of the stench; however, Morris discovered that meat remained stuck to the bones. To the Japanese amusement, he began collecting the fish skeleton and threw it on the tin roof of the barracks. The tin roof, heated by the tropical sun, would dry and cook the meat. They

would then grind it into a fish powder to flavor food or trade for other food. Those who didn't work at surviving died. These were often the younger men.

Escape and Rescue

Two years later it was obvious to the Japanese that they were losing the war. American forces would soon reach the Philippines. Fearing that their captives might be liberated, the Japanese loaded 750 of the Davao Penal Colony POWs aboard the Eri Maru prison ship and transported them to Zamboanga in northern Mindanao where they were transferred to the larger Shinyo Maru for transportation to Japan. Several days after the Shinyo Maru left port, it was torpedoed and Shoss found himself swimming for his life.

Bullets continued splashing around him as Morris Shoss swam towards the jungle-clad Mindanao shoreline. Men near him were hit and went under, but luck was with him and he was not seriously wounded. Because of the Japanese fire, Shoss was forced to detour out to sea and took several hours to reach shore under the cover of a tropical rainstorm. "I was the only one of our survival group that came out alive," Col. Shoss recalls.

Cut by coral, exhausted and malnourished, he wandered in the jungle until discovered by aborigines who took him in and treated him. A few days later, he was carried to a Filipino guerrilla camp. After convalescing, Lt. Shoss then spent several weeks as a guerrilla officer on Mindanao.

One night his group was sent to the coast to assist in unloading supplies from a submarine. When told that he and the other recently-escaped POWs were to be evacuated by this submarine, he swam out to it rather than waiting for a boat to transport him. When he reached the submarine in the dark he shouted "Lt. Shoss asks permission to board!" They ignored him. "I must have looked like hell," he recalls. "I really envied the guys who had beautiful flowing beards.

I just pulled the hair away from my eyes so I could see.... I must have looked like a swimming mongrel."

Allowed to come aboard, Shoss was stripped and hosed down. He bunked on a torpedo. The submarine had excellent food and good air. Morris was evacuated from Mindanao on this vessel, the USS Narwhal, which was crowded with about 75 rescued survivors of the Shinyo Maru sinking. A Japanese airplane spotted them, so the captain took the sub down. But it started to dive too steeply and was forced to resurface sud-

denly, damaging the rear diving plane. The sub, now unable to dive, returned by surface to a Pacific island where PT boats were based. From there the rescued POWs were flown to Australia and hospitalized in Brisbane until they recovered their health.

After returning to the United States, Lt. Shoss contacted the families of his Davao survival group. "I had more information to bring home and give to their families," he recalled. "They would never have gotten this information if I had not survived. They [the

families] consider me even to this day as an extended family member."

Some years after retiring from the military as a full colonel, Morris would medal in swimming in the senior Olympics.

This article is based on an interview with Col. Morris Shoss in September 2003 at his home in San Antonio. He passed away in August 2004 at the age of 89.

In Memoriam

Bonifacia Rama Maravillas (26 Apr 1926 to 12 Nov 2009), the wife of PS SFC Ricardo R. Maravillas and Mother and Lola of many Philippine Scout descendants passed from this earth not long ago. She is loved and missed by many.

Silverio Cabellon born July 8, 1916 in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines

and died February 17, 2010. He joined the Philippine Scouts at age 22 and was assigned to the 26th Cavalry in Fort Stotsenberg, Pampanga. During the war with Japan he was assigned as a telegraph operator and survived the infamous Bataan Death March. After the war he continued his military career with the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean War, and retired in 1966. After his

Army retirement, he worked as a military personnel specialist until 1985. Bill, as he is known, is survived by his wife, Alicia, of 66 years, their sons Silverio, Jr; Jessie; George; daughter Elizabeth; 14 grandchildren; and 4 great grandchildren. Entombment in Mountain View Memorial Park, Lakewood, Washington with full military honors.

1st Convention of the Descendants Group, ADBC, Slated April 7 - 11

The first annual convention of the Descendants Group of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor will be held April 7 - 11, 2010, at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno, NV. The convention will feature seminars and meetings on research, sessions honoring the POWs and widows, a memorial service for deceased POWs, an art exhibit with works of famed POW artist Ben Steele and banquet speakers

Michael and Elizabeth Norman, authors of "Tears in the Darkness, the Story of the Bataan Death March and its Aftermath". Hotel and registration information is available in the current issue of the Quan, now being delivered and also available on the ADBC Museum web site <http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/whatisnew.html>; and DG web site [\[posite2.htm\]\(http://www.west-point.org/family/adbc/DG_Conventions/Com-posite2.htm\), where registration can be made using Pay Pal. Registrations may be sent to:](http://www.west-point.org/family/adbc/DG_Conventions/Com-</p>
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Descendants Group
c/o Judy Pruitt
25 Windsor Road
Brookline, MA 02445-2110
E-mail address: pruittja13@aol.com

Chapter News

Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter:

November 6, 2009 Goody and I, with Brigadier Oscar Hilman and his wife Patty, attended the Veterans Day celebration hosted by TAHANAN Filipino Multicultural Services Agency in Seattle, Washington. Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan from the five military branches were honored.

General Hilman was the keynote speaker who discussed the historic victory for the Filipino WWII Veterans who have been waiting and fighting for their benefits for over 60 years. He also talked about the New Philippine Scouts, the Old Philippine Scouts, and the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

Goody and I were invited by the University of Washington, sponsored by Tri West, on November 11, 2009 Veterans Day to join other veterans groups to honor the University of Washington's eight Medal of Honor alumni recipients at the ceremony to dedicate the University's new Medal of Honor Memorial.

The eight University of Washington Medal of Honor Alumni recipients are:

Gregory "Pappy" Boyington; Col. Ret. USMC, Deming Bronson; 1Lt. USA, Robert E. Galer; BGN. (Ret.) , USMC , Bruce Crandall; LTC. (Ret) USA, John D. "Bud" Hawk; Sgt. USA, Robert Leisy; 2LT. USA, William Nakamura; PFC. USA, Archie Van Winkle; Col. (Ret), USMC. Approximately 20 of the 97 living Medal of Honor recipients attended.

Arturo Garcia and his group of Philippine Scouts reenactors were the first to participate in the veterans day parade in Auburn , Washington.

The extension of another wall bearing the names of veterans from all branches of the armed services at the War Memorial Park in Tacoma, Washington was dedicated on Veterans Day. The names of several Philippine Scout veterans were added to the wall. I was humbled and proud that I was involved with this project.

The Tacoma Chapter held a chapter meeting to elect a chapter President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I resigned the position as Chapter President for 8 years and was responsible

for activating the chapter. The chapter elected Mrs. Zenaida Crisostomo Slemph, a retired junior high school principal and the Chapter Secretary. I was elected as a chapter treasurer and advisor. The chapter has (85) members , (11) annual and (74) life members.

Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Chapter:

No Activities reported.

Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter

(El Paso):

No activities reported.

Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter:

No activities reported.

LTC Loyd E. Mills Chapter:

No activities reported.

Monterey County Chapter:

No activities reported.

Advertising Rates

Our newsletter advertising rates are as follows:

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

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

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

Newsletter and Library

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

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

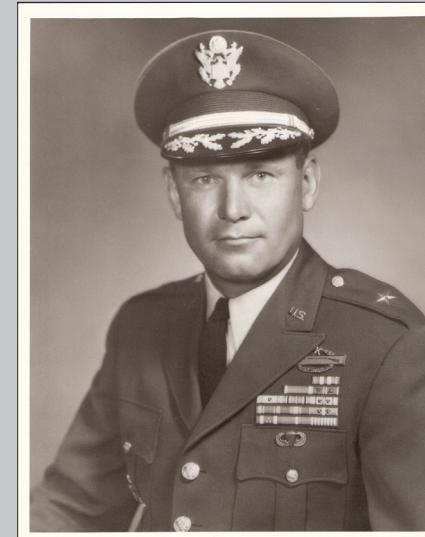
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THE GENERAL'S CORNER

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



Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr.

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The Battle for Bataan: A Japanese Officer Remembers (Part Two)

by Toshimi Kumai

Translated by Ms. Yuka Ibuki

Edited by PSHS Historian J. Michael Houlahan

Captain Toshimi Kumai is the former Adjutant of the Japanese Imperial Army's Panay Garrison during WWII. He first experience combat as a Second Lieutenant during the Japanese conquest of Bataan. Following the war, Captain Kumai served eleven years in prison as a convicted war criminal for actions taken in suppressing guerrilla activity on Panay.

Part One appeared in the Fall 2009 issue of this newsletter

III. Preparing for the General Assault: March 24/25 to April 2

The enemy assault went on everyday. It was beyond our imagination how many bullets and shells they might have. Bombardment was especially fierce at important traffic points for the Japanese Army. The number of the Japanese airplanes in the sky had increased, but we couldn't see the situation of the enemy positions. After twenty days in Bataan through daily fighting and heat, our energy deteriorated, and the number of malaria and dysentery patients had increased in the Company. When we changed positions, all the guns, bullets, jungle deforestation and other equipments had to be transported by men. Moving positions was tiring.

With the knowledge that the all-out assaults was drawing near, the final move was more painful due to tension and fatigue. During the move, we also realized that the general power of the Japanese forces had been strengthened,

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Review: The Blood and Mud in the Philippines: Anti Guerrilla Warfare on Panay Island

by Toshimi Kumai

Translated by Ykako Ibuki; Edited by Ma. Luisa E. Mabunay and Ricardo T. Jose Malones Printing Press and Publishing House, Iloilo City, Philippines, 2009. Pp. 168 incl. 43 photos, 16 maps and 25 pp. appendix. Toshimi Kumai also wrote an article "The Battle of Bataan: A Japanese Officer Remembers", which is serialized in the last two issues of this newsletter.

Reviewed by J. Michael Houlahan

I have mixed feelings while reading and reviewing this book. It, like the article describing combat on Bataan during the early months of WWII, is an interesting

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as we came across with a 24 cm howitzer pulled by a tractor, a mountain gun carried by stout horses, or long lines of soldiers who had been transferred from China and so on.

As soon as we arrived at our new position, the training for the general assault began. It was for example, setting up of the machine guns, shooting, moving positions, disassembling and running with the guns; such fundamental training and training for physical strength were held. What tormented us most was human waste of the Japanese Army (JA), which was scattered everywhere in the fields because a large number of soldiers were concentrated in a narrow area. After training, we had to wash away the adhesion on our clothes and weapons in nearby small streams, and down below the stream other units were busy preparing meals. That must have increased infection. Getting used to the awful smell in the Japanese positions was part of our war; a primitive way of life we could experience only on battle fields.

The Moriguchi Company Commander had gotten worse, and instead of commanding the fight, his conditions was a burden for the unit. So he was hospitalized, and bad farewell to the company with fever and tears. Shortly, 1st Lt. Maeda from the Matsue Regiment was appointed and arrived as the new Company Commander. At the same time, some machinegun unit soldiers of Matsue Regiment were supplied to our Company as well, who were acquaintances of mine. The training got even more feverish.

The detailed order from the 65th Brigade was conveyed to the Battalion HQs. The campaign order started like this, "Our Brigade was selected for the assault of Mt. Natib and contributed to the beginning of the first assault producing brilliant results, but the casualties were quite heavy. That we were chosen again for the first battle of the all-out assault on the USAFFE is the greatest honor for the Brigade." Through the

order and talk of the Battalion Commander, I figured out the general view of the assault as follows. The enemy forces had constructed a solid position on the north side of the road between Bagac and Balanga. The general assault formation plan of the JA was, with the 65th Brigade in the center, the 4th Division on its left, which had been transferred from China, and a detached unit of the 20th Division still further to the left. The 16th Division was on the right of the central Corps. The major focus of the attack was the area of Mt. Samat, which was going to be performed by the 4th Division. The 16th Division was supposed to carry out feint operation to attract the enemy towards west, in an attempt to deceive them and make it easier for the JA main force attack. With the air units and the naval force joining, it was going to be a three dimensional general attack.

According to Tanabe Battalion Commander, in support of the assault, there were a 24 cm Howitzer Regiment from Shimono-seki, a Heavy Gun Regiment (16 cm cannon) from Yokosuka, a mortar gun company, a mountain gun regiment, two artillery regiments of the 4th and 16th Divisions, and regiment infantry gun units from each of three regiments, and other kinds of gun units. An Army Artillery Corps was organized with these units and it was commanded by Lt. General Kitajima. Around three hundred guns would be focused on important points of assault.

The Battalion Commander went on, "Bataan peninsula is 24 km or 25 km from east and west, and were the Japanese guns bigger than the regiment infantry guns placed in the main line, there would be one every 50 meters. It would be the biggest bombardment since the Japanese Army was formed." I felt sure that it would be successful this time, although the enemy guns were also numerous. To my relief just inside my heart, it was decided that our Tanabe Battalion would serve as the reserve force, and was supposed to be commanded directly by the Brigade

Commander as the reserve force in case the main corps attack didn't go well.

The date of the assault was marked as X. However, the JA's custom being commencing events on a commemoration day, it had long been talked about it would be on April 3, the Emperor Jimmu Day.

According to the Assault Outline of the Brigade, on the previous day to X, our 142nd Yoshizawa Regiment, in which the 2nd Battalion would serve as the main force, would see action prior to the other units. In a night attack, they were to break through the enemy's right front position, advance to the Bagac/Balanga Road and prepare for the enemy counter attack from the west. The 141st Imai Regiment was to be in charge of the main assault of the 65th Brigade. Commander Tanabe and other officers of our battalion looked rather relaxed probably as our unit was supposed to be reserve. The whole scheme becoming clear, the atmosphere for the last training got serious.

It was held in an open space of the jungle.

Nara Brigade Commander made a speech mounted on a horse: The enemy force in Bataan peninsula is the real main force of the US and Philippines. In the beginning of the war, neither the JA nor Imperial HQs knew them, taking it easy. Therefore, our 65th Brigade which launched the first assault against them received quite a serious mauling at the end of brave and fierce battles. However, both the JA and Imperial HQs finally understood the US force in Bataan peninsula, and supply units were sent from China and heavy guns were dispatched. The enemy positions we are going to attack are the most solid of all you can find in the infantry drill books. In the fight against the US forces, it wouldn't work just to aim at targets. You have to bombard the enemy area with as much gunfire as possible. In order to achieve that, charging and firing has to be done quickly and properly. The US firing is in waves. As we have

huge supplies of bullets and shells, fire as much as possible.

Following the speech, he ordered 2nd Battalion Commander, Major Bansaku Kamata, to practice the assault, commanding two companies. Commander Kamata himself crawling most of the time as if it were in the real battle, with all the officers and men crawling, they practiced. I felt sorry for them knowing the filthy conditions of the area.

I also felt sorry for the exhausted looking 142nd Regiment Commander with his mustache drooping. Our Battalion Commander seemed to have told the Brigade Commander anything he wanted to say without hesitation. We heard rumors that our battalion was put in reserve because the Brigade Commander couldn't use him as he wished or because our Battalion Commander was unflinching and dependable.

At that time, among the soldiers, the following rumor was going around about the fire power of the US Force. In the previous battle, a company of the 20th Division had been sent to the Philippines from the battle field of China. The company faced the US position, situated on a hill. It was an ordinary looking plateau, making a prime target for an attack. Every member of the company's experienced war veterans in China thought, "How could such a hill be difficult to capture?" In the sky there was the full moon best for a night attack. The company launched their favorite night attack based on their experience in China, of which they were proud of successive victories. In an instant, they received the counter attack. The US shooting was horrible, being like waves and a sea of firing to be precise, and the company was nearly annihilated. This showed the awful difference between Chinese and American gun power. The JA realized it was difficult to dash through the American line without a strong covering by the artillery.

Soon after the last review by the Brigade Commander, the general offensive was decided to be launched on April 3, the Emperor Jimmu Memorial Day. All

the soldiers, vehicles, guns and horses of the JA made the final movement in excitement. We also moved our position to the final point. We encountered the Takasago-tribe Voluntary Army from Formosa, and saw them devotedly engaged in making a road through the trackless jungle. Their efficient work made us feel grateful for their cooperation.

Two days before the General Offensive, perhaps in preparation for the expected loss of personnel killed in action, a last minute supplement was carried out and around a dozen new soldiers were added to our platoon. This made the number of the men in the platoon around forty, giving new anxiety to me. They were literally supply soldiers, who were classified as rank C in the military standard physical examination given to them back in their home town of Japan. Everyone was short and feeble-looking, and was not cut in an adequate frame to bear heavy 55 kg machine guns and bullet boxes that weighed more than 30 kg. Inside my heart, I thought the army had supplied the wrong kind of soldiers to our Machinegun Company and hoped there would be no extra problems.

On the previous day of the attack, we were given a pack of tobacco and sweets as a gift from the Emperor. In the place and circumstance, we enjoyed them and especially the sweets tasted good. Eventually, the candies would become our precious calorie supplement and the only side dish to go with rice during the offensive operation. On the night previous to the General Offensive, the sky of Bataan was full of twinkling stars. Beneath them, everything on the earth was in dead silence, but with the general offensive waiting for the next day, there was something fierce in the atmosphere.

IV. All-out Assault: April 3 to April 9

Actually it is quite recently that I knew the general assault of the Bataan Peninsula was performed from April 3 to April 10. As I try to recall precisely what I did on each day, the dates never

fit properly. As a front gun force platoon leader, I moved about just as I was ordered, like a robot in the utmost state of exhaustion during the latter half of the warfare. Therefore remembering was difficult. Let me put everything down as I recall it.

On the morning of April 3, we received the news that the 2nd Battalion of the Yoshizawa Regiment reached the Bagac-Balanga road, having dashed through the US Force's front line by a night attack, as planned.

The Maeda Machinegun Company Commander ordered us two platoon leaders, me and Kimura, to climb up the hill behind us to see the battle, which would be started at 10:00 a.m. Although I was concerned about my platoon, I also wanted to see the battle. Eventually firing of the JA began in front and behind us. Hundreds of guns of the JA simultaneously started shooting. There was an observation point where we could see the whole scene of Mariveles and Mt Samat.

At 10:00 a.m. the general offensive in the major area started. We heard noises of various types of guns and several friendly airplanes in the sky. Yellowish white dust and smoke rose and climbed higher and higher covering Mt. Samat and Mt. Mariveles. As three of us were excitedly watching, suddenly a fire started at our feet. Nearby dry grasses caught fire of the cigarette thrown away by the Company Commander. We managed to extinguish it in five minutes. All three of us got our face black with smoke.

Returning to the position of our company, we were shocked to find they had gone. The order of advance must have been given.

There was no indication which direction they went. We hurriedly advanced along the road. It must be a punishment for a company to move forward without the commander and two platoon leaders. We nearly ran, but I found on the way several takuwan, traditional Japanese pickled radish, in a little water pool, where someone must have thrown them

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away. As they had a flavor of home, I picked them up to carry with me. Eventually we caught up with the company. It seemed each corps was succeeding in the front line attack, and with the horrible simultaneous firing and bombing by the JA, the US Force counter fire was silent this day. Thus the first day of the general offensive finished while we remained impassive spectators.

On the 2nd day, I woke up early in our camping site for the night. The JA was making a rapid maneuver, which seemed to be changing moment by moment. The JA was firing fiercely on the US positions. Without any clear order to advance, we just followed the company HQs in front of us. Those newly supplied soldiers already looked tired and I wished them just to come with the rest of us without being left behind. Squad leader Okazaki kept cheering them on. We came up to a river of around 20 meters wide. We saw around a dozen friendly tanks, which we had rarely seen. They must have been those tanks that did the frontal attack on the first day. The exhausted look of the soldiers revealed the mortar battle. Eventually, we saw the US Force front position along the Tiawel River, which was the target of the major attack the previous day by the Imai Regiment. We climbed down the slope crushed by the firing, and crossed the river. First we saw tens of corpses of the enemy force scattered in the area. The Japanese side of the Tiawel River was a cliff of seven to eight meters, exposed under the glaring hot sun.

The river was 20 meters wide, with clear water, which made me feel like swimming. Then we stood on a flat field of pebbles. In the ditches made with the stones on the riverside, some Filipino soldiers were lying dead still holding their rifles. It was an utmost noble sight as a soldier. The flesh of the head had already melted leaving the hair on the scalp, and the clothes were dump with the rotten liquid of the body. First we met a single line of barbed-wire entanglement, then second and third

roof-shaped barbed wire entanglements were set in 50 to 60m intervals behind the first one, just like we were taught in the textbook of position construction. Although the wires were slack, they were new and showed they were recently constructed. Swelled up black corpses were scattered here and there, on which rotten liquid dropping on the clothes. I saw a Japanese soldier's corpse that was urgently buried with the knees sticking out on the ground.

Seventy to eighty meters behind the barbed wire entanglements were trenches extending in horizontal and vertical directions, with concealed dugouts at 10 meter intervals, where heavy machine-guns must have been set. Swollen corpses were scattered here and there and inside the trenches. As I looked out over the front position which was 300 or 400 meters away, a few points were noticed where the barbed wire was broken, showing it was not so effective as might have been expected. I had the impression that the Philippine Force should have strengthened the ditches by constructing more in number, and the shape of the ditches needed more engineering, considering the time there was for preparation.

Under the strong sun, the smell was unbearable. The new recruits all looked tense and afraid. "Fight and fall; that's the way of the battle field. From now on, we have to kill as many enemy as possible, and should not be like these who died here without damaging the enemy." I warned the soldiers, and myself. It was then, with huge noises, artillery shells started exploding around us, raising mud-dust. Pale-faced, everyone ran into the ditches. It was the enemy artillerymen's simultaneously firing. Having forgotten the soldiers, I tried to enter a solidly-made dugout, but swollen corpses made barriers, and the smell made it difficult to stay in it. I jumped into another one, where there was another corpse, but the shells were falling around without ever stopping. It happened in an instant, but my heart-

beat was strenuous, and I felt as if I were suffocated with tension. A few soldiers jumped in breathless, making me feel a bit steady. The shooting lasted more than an hour, and still never stopped. Only yesterday, these Filipino soldiers felt fear like us under the Japanese artillery shells, and they became as they are. Today, taking their place, we might meet the same fate. I felt somewhat calm, and at the same time, a little confident that the bullets wouldn't hit us so easily, although the shooting was precise. The firing lasted for three hours, but fortunately our company received no damage. Our battalion, which had been held in reserve during this period, made haste to join the others. On the way we crossed the Bagac/Balanga road, the width of which was 20 meters. Having passed the area which seemed like the foot of Mt. Samat, the jungle revealed different aspects. Now we must have reached the vicinity of Mt. Mariveles, and we entered a forest of big trees. The road was big and good. It seemed quite a number of my platoon soldiers had dropped out. I held the unit and counted the personnel, guns and bullets. To my surprise, most of the new recruits were not there. I ordered Sgt. Okazaki to go forward, and waited for some time in a quiet road in the forest, but no soldiers of our platoon showed up. In the evening we caught up the main unit. There were obviously enemy soldiers around quite close, and we camped in a strict watch, but the dozen drop-outs didn't arrive.

The third day dawned, into a fresh morning in the great forest. As the strong sunshine started to come through the foliage, suddenly we heard gun shots by both parties. The order was issued for the Machinegun Company to advance. The Maeda Machinegun Force ran to the battle front. There, both parties faced each other with a river bridge in between. The enemy couldn't be seen, but they were firing from the jungle 300 or 400 meters ahead. The US Force's bullets shot the leaves off the trees making noises of 'Bassah, bassah!' The battalion

HQs ordered the Battalion Infantry Guns to shoot at the US Force in front. Commander Maeda directly commanded the Battalion Infantry Guns. The sound of shooting sounded 'Gwatt!' At the same time the commander shouted 'Ah!' and he was pressing his thigh. A shell hit a tree behind him and an exploded piece of the shell unfortunately hit him. He ordered, "2nd Lt. Kumai, lead a platoon of infantry around and attack the US Force from the right side."

Going right meant climbing up a cliff of 14 or 15 meters. We pulled up the machine guns and ammunition with ropes, and crawled up the cliff. With a platoon of infantry ahead of us, we advanced through the jungle around a quarter of an hour, and reached an adequate high point. Three hundred meters below in the jungle, the US Force was shooting. We set the guns, and aimed. This was the first occasion for me to shoot the machine gun into an enemy position. A little excited, I ordered, "Shoot!" "Da, da, da, da," the rhythmical sound seemed to shake the leaves of the jungle. I felt excited, "It's a great success." We might have shot for twenty minutes. The jungle fell into a dead silence. The US Force must have retreated. We caught up with the battalion HQs. and found that the company commander had been hospitalized because of the wound. Along the road, there were still remaining enemies and we saw some of them crossing the main road here and there.

The jungle was completely different from that near Mt. Natib. On the way we passed several points where a large number of the US Force had camped. I was impressed there was no trace of human wastes anywhere. The site of their camping was extremely clean hygienically, making an astonishing contrast of that of the JA, which was full of waste.

The fourth day. It seemed we were very close to the HQs of the US Force. The shooting in the jungle increased. The drop-outs from the platoon also increased. Only one of the new recruits was still with us. In a big jungle and making a rapid advance, there was no

way to find the missing. More than one third of the platoon was missing, while the company commander was hospitalized. The platoon leaders must be blamed. Fierce shooting continued. The US Force wouldn't withdraw. "Gun force, come forward!" with the order, my platoon advanced. The 2nd Infantry Company led by Commander Ikeda was fighting fiercely in the jungle bushes. The distance was around 100 meters, and the sound was as sharp as if it were breaking the eardrum. Company Commander Ikeda was around forty years of age, wearing glasses and had protruding teeth. He had a dark complexion and was a veteran of the battles in China. Under fire, he was standing behind a big tree in a little caved-in spot, sticking his military sword under his hands. Beside him was the Tanaka platoon leader, who had returned to the front, after he was hospitalized for the wound he got in the first Mt. Natib attack. Both commanders remained calm. "Please hurry and shoot." The US Force's shooting was sharp, and nearly painful. The bullets were heard slashing the leaves around us, "Bassah, bassah!" We set up two heavy machine-guns. The Okazaki Squad leader said, "The men haven't yet got their usual pace." Two veteran gunners, Wakisaka and Katoh, put their hands on the gear. "Shoot!" With my order, the shooting noise in the jungle became even fiercer. 'Da, da, da, da, ...!' The US shooting had focused in our direction, making the leaves around us shake more. We went on shooting for more than ten minutes, but there was no sign of the US Force retreating. Suddenly a soldier on my left screamed, "Gya!" At the same time, I heard his organs fly out, and I pressed my head on to the ground. The soldier had got up for a second and was shot at the stomach. From the company came the prompt, "There are a few more who were shot still further ahead. Shoot the machine gun more, aiming broadly moving right and left and horizontally." We shot and shot towards the direction of the sound. The US Force's shooting became a bit less intense. Ikeda Company held a

Filipino officer in a khaki uniform as a POW. I asked the commander, "Our gun platoon has a shortage of personnel. And we need one who bears the bullet box. Please let him carry it." The Filipino soldier coughed ominously and refused. The Company Commander ordered, "He has got TB. He might do anything if he is with our company. Shoot him." No one dared to shoot him, although the firing of both parties was still going on. "Let me do it." A young soldier came forward. "No, don't shoot." Someone shouted. "Dahn!", a gun sounded. The Filipino soldier was shot in the stomach and he fell on his face breathing heavily. "Shoot quick!" Another voice and another shot. An eye flew off, and the soldier with a hole in his head didn't move anymore. I couldn't stop feeling sorry for him. The shooting in the jungle went on with a distance of 100 meters or closer. Eventually the US Force started to retreat.

As it was in the jungle, the US Force sometimes shot at us unexpectedly. The spearhead company advanced, shooting at them. When the US Force resistance was strong, the order came, "The Machinegun force, come forward." The Kimura platoon and my platoon took turns, but the Machinegun Company had a difficult shift, consisting just of two platoons. The Battalion consisted of three infantry companies, each of which had three platoons, making a spearhead shift of one platoon once in nine, or once in three if it needed a whole spearhead company. However, the gun force platoon had to go once in two turns, when the shooting was fierce. One machine gun weighed 55 kg. We carried it disassembled. The physical energy of the gun forces began to deteriorate day by day, hour by hour. The soldiers had already started to drop out, so the number barely satisfied the regular quota. However, the damage was greater in infantry companies, and the Company Commander grieved over the number of those killed in the battle, yesterday and today.

The 5th Day. It seemed the next attack point for the corps was the solid

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second line position of Mt. Mariveles. The loss of energy of my platoon had increased. Were we supposed to do a full scale attack of the 2nd line position? I couldn't be confident about mounting another attack, in view of the number of personnel remaining and their fatigue level. In addition, according to what I heard later from the Ikeda Company Commander, the Kimura 1st platoon leader didn't easily obey the orders from the infantry companies, causing trouble.

(Note 1.) On the other hand, our platoon was willing and shot as best as we could, which made the order to us more frequent. My soldiers naturally got more exhausted. The front of the corps was taken by the Tanabe Battalion, the spare unit. The difficult barrier of the 2nd US Force defense line became closer. It was the evening. In the forest of Mariveles the sound of gun shots echoed, "Dahn, dahn!" I thought it must have been the mountain gun, as I saw it accompanying

us during the day. In this mountainside, and in the dusk, I wondered what the mountain gun was aiming at. Soon the battalion HQs gave us the order, "The gun force, come forward." It was the turn of the Kimura platoon. Eventually, we knew what caused the sound.

The conclusion of this article will be published in the next newsletter.

The Blood and Mud From Page 9

and sometimes riveting account of the horrors of war and the inhumanity that sometimes occurs in a war zone, and offers rare insight into the war from a Japanese combatant's perspective. On the other hand, following the war, Capt. Kumai was tried as a war criminal and found guilty of either committing or ordering the torture and murder of several civilians during pacification campaigns on the Philippine island of Panay.

Kumai himself describes several such instances, although he does not admit to direct participation in torture or execution. However, he clearly was a senior officer present when some of these war crimes were committed and was in charge of anti-guerrilla warfare and the collection of information on guerrilla activities for his unit. During the punitive expeditions, suspected guerrillas were routinely tortured and often killed without proof of actual guerrilla involvement. Sometimes civilians were randomly killed in order to terrify others into providing information on the guerrillas assumed to be sheltering among

them. In at least one case witnessed by Kumai, when a Filipino resisted the Japanese, he and his wife and three young children were beheaded. During another expedition, approximately ten American civilians, including at least one child, were captured and later executed.

Such crimes were widespread in the Philippines and intensified as it became clear to the Japanese that they were losing the war and that the Filipino population was hostile to them. The fourteen Japanese tried for atrocities on Panay were accused of causing around 2,000 civilian deaths, most of them during the last six months of 1943 when a series of punitive expeditions were launched against the local population in retaliation for guerrilla activities on the island. Seven Japanese from Kumai's unit were hung for these crimes and Kumai himself was initially sentenced to 25 years at hard labor. However, as was the case in most war crime sentences, he was released in 1954, well short of serving all his time. His release may have been expedited because several prominent

Panay civilians wrote Japan testifying to Capt. Kumai's good character during their extensive wartime contacts with him. Their letters are included in the appendix of the book.

In 1971 Kumai made the first of several visits to the Philippines to help search for the remains of Japanese soldiers and civilians, about forty of the latter having committed suicide before the Fil-Am forces could capture them. During these visits he became friends with many Filipinos and was gratified to find that the Filipinos had taken in and raised several Japanese children who had survived the mass suicide by Japanese civilians. According to Kumai, about 2,000 Japanese soldiers and 1,300 Filipino guerrillas died in combat on Panay. Another 10,000 civilians may have lost their lives.

This book is not currently available for sale; however, a revised, more heavily footnoted version is expected to be published in the Philippines, perhaps later this year.

Review: From Bataan to Safety

The Rescue of 104 American Soldiers in the Philippines by Malcom Decker

Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company. 232 pages; 13 b&w photos; 3 maps; 7 pp appendix; 8 pp index; 7 pp chapter notes; bibliography; ISBN 978-0-7864-3396-4, \$35 (paperback).

Malcolm Decker has written a very readable, well-researched second book on WWII in the Philippines, this time dealing with the few hundred Americans who either evaded capture or escaped from the Death March following the April 9, 1942 surrender of the Bataan defenders. The heroes of this volume are Filipinos in general and the Fassoth family in particular. The author credits twin brothers Bill and Martin Fassoth and Bill's wife Catalina with saving at least 104 American military men who escaped the Japanese. In the book's appendix, Decker provides a partial list (103) of those who took shelter with the Fassoths, and the fates of all but six of them. It is the most comprehensive retelling I've encountered of the role the family played in saving American servicemen.

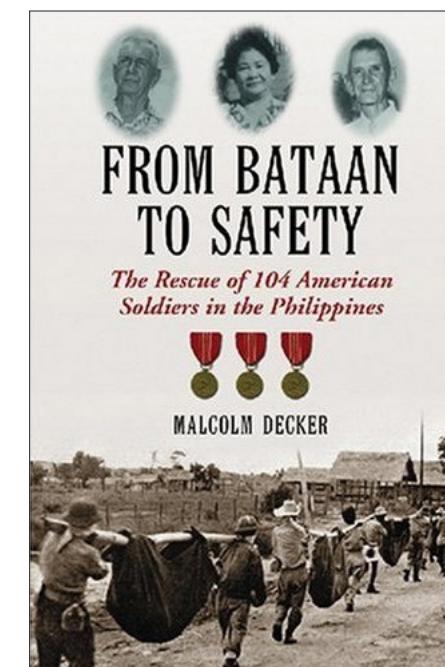
The Fassoths, German-American immigrants from Hawaii, ran a successful sugarcane plantation on Luzon. After the surrender, they organized and ran a series of four camps hidden away in the mountains and sheltering American soldiers who escaped from the Japanese. During the year that these camps survived, Bill Fassoth estimated that between 200 and 300 Americans recuperated in them. Most of the men in these camps moved on after they recovered their health, many joining guerrilla groups. Others were scattered by a series of five raids the Japanese mounted on the camps. About 100, determined to wait out the war in comparative comfort, did not willingly leave. Many of them were killed, captured or surrendered as the Japanese ratcheted up the pressure. In October, 1943 Bill and Martin Fassoth themselves surrendered when the Japanese offered leniency to those surrendering and death to anyone not turning themselves in.

The author sums up this period by

writing that "By October 1943, the Japanese had captured and executed virtually all the major [American] guerrilla leaders on Luzon" (p. 154). Fewer than half of about 400 escaped Americans survived the war. Both Fassoth brothers were among those surviving, but the family was never reimbursed by the U.S. government for the considerable expenses incurred sheltering Americans. The reason cited for the denial was that the Fassoths "were not authorized to incur the expenses..." (p.1). However, shortly after the war, Bill and Martin Fassoth and Bill's wife Catalina were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the behest of President Harry S. Truman.

The early chapters of the book briefly describe the defense of Bataan and then follow various small groups of Americans as they fled the battlefield and eventually found their way to the Fassoth camps. They were aided in this by sympathetic Filipinos and by the reward the Fassoth brothers offered for each American rescued. One of those escaping was Doyle Decker, the author's father. Those familiar with Malcolm Decker's first book, will remember the longer tale of his father's escape contained in that account. The last three chapters of the book deal with the reconstruction of the guerrilla groups shattered by Japanese raids, preparations for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return, and the liberation of the Philippines.

Arguably the Philippine campaigns were the most important of the Pacific theater, as the heroic defense against the Japanese invasion bought enough time for MacArthur to secure Australia, which in turn was the launching platform for his drive to liberate the Philippines. Furthermore, half the Japanese military deaths in World War II occurred in the Philippines (p. 197). Decker concludes



his book by stating: "Of the guerrilla units on Luzon, all but one American[led] unit was commanded by a former guest of the Fassoth camp. Without the help of the Fassoth family not only would many additional American lives have been lost, but guerrilla warfare on the island may not have been so dramatically successful in preparing the way for the Japanese defeat."

Reviewed by J. Michael Houlahan
PSHS Historian

Note: signed first editions can be purchased directly from the author as follows:

*"From Bataan to Safety" for \$30
"On A Mountainside" for \$15
Or BOTH for \$40 (includes shipping)*

Send checks to: Malcolm Decker, P.O. Box 803, Camdenton, MO 65020

PHILIPPINE SCOUTS HERITAGE SOCIETY

26TH NATIONAL REUNION

MAY 7-8, 2010 – TACOMA, WASHINGTON

Dear members and friends:

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society will have our 26th National Annual Reunion in Tacoma, Washington on May 7-8, 2010. This will be hosted by the Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. chapter.

The reunion will be held at La Quinta Inn and Suites in Tacoma, Washington. There will be panel discussions and presentations by invited guests and members of the Society.

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Joe Calugas, Jr. , 2907 Narrows Place , Tacoma, WA. 98407-1057 no later than April 10, 2010.

The dinner will be at 6:00 PM May 8, 2010 at the Evergreen ballroom, dinner choices are Filet mignon & salmon, or Filet mignon & Prawns. (please indicate your choices on the registration form)

There is a donation of \$40.00 for each person attending the dinner. The Society is a 501(c) 3. **Please make your payment payable to PSHS Tacoma Chapter no later than April 10, 2010 to the same address above.**

For those of you that live in the Tacoma and Seattle areas ticket sales, persons are:

- Jane Domieka: (253) 752-3863
- Sheree Clark: (253) 752-8952
- Zenaida Slempe: (253) 848-5564

Thank you for your support !

**Sincerely,
Jose ‘Joe’ Calugas,Jr.
Chapter President**

PROGRAM AGENDA

Friday, May 7, 2010

- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Registrations Hotel Lobby**
PS souvenirs for sale, Sheree Clark, Gilda Felizardo
- 8:00 AM-10.30 AM **PSHS Financial Audit** Chairman, Aniceto Bagley
Boardroom
- 10:45 AM- 11:30 PM **“Child POW” WWII Survival in Philippines**
Alice Finch Peeples, Author “Child POW” A Memory of Survival
Cedar Room
- 11:30 AM-12:30 PM **Presentation of his research and art work**
Anthony Zendejas
- 12:30PM - 1:30 PM LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)
- 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM **Open Board of Officers Meeting**
Call to order: Living History Honor Guards PSHS Nininger Chapter , Los Angeles, CA
Opening Prayer, Don Figuracion
Memorial Service in honor of deceased Philippine Scouts: Goody Calugas
Welcome Address by Joe Calugas, Jr.
Secretary’s Report
Minutes of previous meeting
Treasurer’s Report: Goody Calugas
Audit Committee Report
Nominating committee Report
President’s Report: John Patterson
Officers’ and Chapter Presidents’ Reports
Unfinished Business
New Business
Next meeting - Locations and Date
Cedar Room
- 3:30 PM- 4:30 PM **“Help Me Understand My Connection”**
Dr. Fred Cordova
- 4:30 PM- 5:30 PM **Hospitality Social**
Boardroom

Saturday May 8, 2010

- 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM **Final Registration Hotel Lobby**
Jane Domeika, Al Cosio
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM **General’s Panel**
BG. Oscar B. Hilman
Cedar Room
- 10:00 AM- 10:45 AM **“Forgotten Soldier”**
Donald Plata, Chris Schaefer

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

Agenda From Page 19

11:00 AM- 11:45 AM	Veteran's Panel Joe Calugas, Jr.
12:00 Noon- 1:00 PM	LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)
1:00 PM- 1:45 PM	"Pensacola Convoy" Dr. Anthony R. Maravillas
2:00 PM- 2:45 PM	Living History Project Victor Verano, Gil Mislant, Lt. Alexander Nininger Chapter
3:00 PM- 3:45 PM	The Scouts Story through artifacts and memorabilia Rick Slater, Bob Capistrano
6:00 PM	DINNER Reception Committee: Sheree Clark, Jane Domeika, Leila Mukai and Goody Calugas Display Committee: Arturo Garcia, Victor Verano, Rick Slater
6:00 PM- 6:30 PM	No Host Cocktail
6:30 PM- 9:00 PM	Dinner Programs <i>Evergreen Ballroom</i> Master of Ceremonies: BG. Oscar B. Hilman Color Guards: Arturo Garcia, Victor Verano, Gil Mislant, National Anthems: United States and Philippines Invocation: Dan Figuracion Chapter Chaplain Musical Rendition "Winds Beneath My Wings": Jorge Calugas Welcome Address: Joe Calugas, Jr., Chapter President Remarks/ Acknowledgement: John A. Paterson, National President Raffle Drawings and Silent Auction: Roland Santos, Elena Cosio, Zane Clark, Zenaida Slem, Lee Noble Roll Call of the Philippine Scouts Veterans, widows, sons and daughters of the Scouts BG. Oscar B. Hilman, Zenaida Slem, Lee Noble Armed Services Medley - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard Introduction of the Keynote Speaker BG. Oscar Hilman Keynote Speaker : "The Lull": Dr. Anthony R. Maravillas PhD. Installation of Officers: BG. Oscar B. Hilman Poem: The Philippine Scouts: Zane Clark Moments of Silence Taps "Bayan ko" Closing Song: God Bless America
9:00PM - 12 Midnight	DANCE and Raffle Drawings

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

26th National Annual Reunion

May 7 - 8, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
(Last Name) (First Name)

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

Phone No.: _____ Number in Party: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

DINNER MENU CHOICES: (indicate number of each)

Filet Mignon & Salmon: _____ Filet Mignon & Prawns: _____

REGISTRATION CHARGE: \$40.00 per person

Please make check payable and mail to:

PSHS Capt. Jose C. Calugas, Sr. Chapter
c/o Goody V. Calugas, Registration Chairperson
2907 Narrows Place
Tacoma, WA. 98407-1057

Notes:

1. Upon receipt of your payment, your registration will be confirmed.
2. **R.S.V.P. and payment must be received NO LATER THAN April 10, 2010**
3. Groups / Party of 5 or 10, please list the names on another sheet of paper so we may arrange your seating accordingly.

LODGING: La Quinta Inn & Suites
1425 E. 27th Street
Tacoma, WA. 98421

Reservation CALL: 1-(253) 383- 0146 option 0
OR 1-800-531-5900 ask for La Quinta in Tacoma, WA.
Fax 1-(253) 627-3280 and ask for "BLOCK of rooms under PSHS"

RATES: One to four persons per room: **\$99.00** plus taxes. This is a group rate for the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

CUT-OFF DATE: April 26, 2010. After this 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 member.**

NOTE: We are guaranteed (40) rooms up to April 26, 2010

No Free Shuttle Service from the Airport to La Quinta in Tacoma, however La Quinta has a contract service with the Cap Aeroporter for nominal group rates. Please call for your reservation. Rental cars reservation are located across baggage claim area.

1-800- 962- 3579 or (253) 927-6179

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

Paul Ruiz

Newsletter Editor
458 McAllister Dr.
Benicia, CA 94510



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*The Museum is the official repository
for Philippine Scout memorabilia*

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

*If you would like to contact us via email,
visit our website:
www.philippine-scouts.org.*