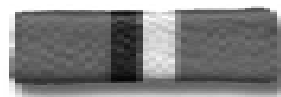
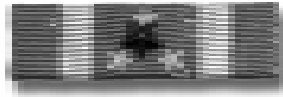


Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



Fall 2007

Family Found

By Elaine de Valle

Posted 12/10/06: A Coral Gables real estate agent has finally found a side of her family lost since her father died in World War II.

She was 3 years old when she saw him for the last time.

Since then, Nancy Earnest has wondered about her father—a prisoner of war who died in World War II—and whether or not she had any living relatives on his side of the family.

Last month – 65 years after Pearl Harbor and thanks to the Internet—she met her aunt, her dad’s last surviving

sibling, and some cousins. She also finally learned more about the man she last saw in May 1941, when her mother and she were shipped out of the Philippines, where he was based.

Earnest also learned this: She laughs like him. And many of her relatives—who have a farm in upstate New York they turned into a vineyard—are gardeners like Earnest, who has a lush, floral backyard at her Westchester-area home.

“It’s my passion. There must be a gardening gene,” Earnest, 68, a Coral Gables real estate agent, said last week as she flipped through a three-ring notebook with photographs of her newfound

family, newly discovered ancestors and a family tree sent by one of her cousins.

She knew from her mother that her father, U.S. Army **Maj. Karol “Carl” Anthony Bauer**, a 1936 graduate of West Point, perished in the Philippines during World War II. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese in April 1942 and suffered through the horrors of the Bataan Death March.

She knew he was killed when the unmarked Japanese prison ship, the *Oryoku Maru*, was bombed by American planes ten days before Christmas in 1944. She couldn’t talk about him with

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Victory in Defeat

By Col. Mel Rosen

I get rather disturbed by constantly hearing the fall of Bataan and Corregidor was such a great disaster for the United States. Let me tell you my approach to this. If you agree with me, I request—no, I implore you to help me spread this word!

In 1941, the Japanese Imperial Headquarters gave Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma 50 days in which to completely conquer the Philippines. At the end of that time, they were going to take half of Homma’s 14th Army with appropriate parts of his air and naval support for operations to the South, presumably against New Zealand and Australia. At that time, New Zealand had few if any defensive forces, and Australia had



Col. Mel Rosen

See Victory in Defeat Page 5

Editor's Comments

Sadly since our last reunion at least nine more Philippine Scouts have passed away, seven of whom belonged to our Society. According to a recent newspaper account, World War II veterans serving with the U.S. Military are passing at the rate of 1,000 per day. The nation owes a great deal to these men and women. Without their sacrifices, the war would have been lost and a long night of totalitarianism would have settled over the world.

Among the most courageous in this great struggle were the Philippine Scout units which formed the backbone of General Douglas McArthur's ground combat defenses. As the late Col. Mel

Rosen reminds us in a reprint of a speech he delivered during our 2002 reunion, the heroic defense of the Philippines upset the Japanese timetable for conquering Asia. Instead of 50 days, it took them five months. By then the forces of democracy had rallied sufficiently to blunt their drive southward, save Australia and New Zealand, and set the table for the island hopping campaign that would eventually free the Philippines and defeat the Japanese military juggernaut.

We salute these brave men and honor their memory. This issue has six articles and a poem recalling the heroism now more than sixty years behind us. Col.

Rosen's piece has already been cited. In addition, there is a grandson's quest to obtain recognition for his grandfather's supreme sacrifice; a daughter's remembrance of a father lost in the first days of the war; a first hand account of surviving combat and guerrilla warfare; an article interviewing several surviving scouts; and the reunion of a family separated for more than sixty years by the death of a loved one in the war.

Mike Houlahan, Editor

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Quarter page: \$30
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Newsletter and Library

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We are grateful to **Capt. Felipe Fernandez, Dr. Isabelo Torio, Sen. John Patterson, Major Fred Foz, Nora Warren, Rod Hall, Dr. Nicoll** and **Mrs. Edie Galbraith** as well as **Mike and Winnie Houlahan** for contributing a total of \$1,075 toward the newsletter fund, most of it in memory of **Col Mel Rosen**.

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" and mailed to:

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Editor, PSHS Newsletter
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National President's Letter

One of the biggest features of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society is our annual reunions. The Society's 23rd Annual Reunion and Business Meeting took place on May 18 and 19, 2007 in Tacoma Washington. It's difficult to name every individual who made this years gathering such a success. Clearly, Joe and Goody Calugas and their team of volunteers must be commended for their hard work. It paid off. The Captain Jose C. Calugas, Sr. Chapter did itself proud. The hospitality and warmth of the welcome were very impressive.

The panels and presentations concerning "World War II Nurses on Bataan" and the "New Scouts" were excellent. We also enjoyed informative sessions on veterans' benefits and the "Filipino WWII Veterans Equity Campaign." Colonel John Olson's slide presentation concerning trips he made to various Philippine World War II battlefields and prison camps was very interesting.

The busy two days were capped off by our keynote speaker, Brigadier General Oscar Hilman, whose remarks were very well received at Saturday evening's closing dinner. We have now heard from three generals (Saint, Soriano and, now, Hilman) whose fathers were Philippine Scouts. There is a possibility that the next keynote speaker will also have close family ties to the Scouts.

Thanks need to be accorded to the National Officers and Chapter Presidents for their continued activism and support. We are blessed by active membership, increasing activism by the "next generations," our connection with the U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas and outstanding outreach vehicles in the form of our Newsletter

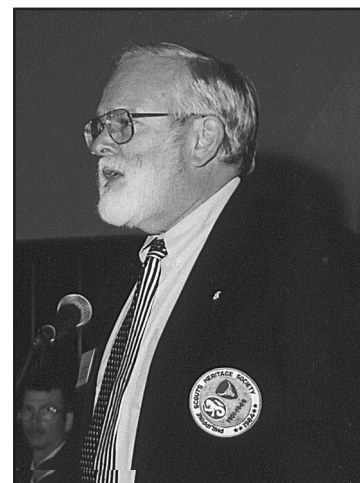
and Website. The future looks bright for preserving the history, heritage and legacy of the Philippine Scouts.

The Society's newest officers are - Menandro Parazo, 2nd Vice President; Goody Calugas, Treasurer; Nora Warren, Secretary; Elena Cosio, Assistant Treasurer; Aniceto Bagley, Counselor. Our thanks to Mike Houlahan for serving as Secretary, to Nora Warren as our Treasurer for many years, to Nita Giaung as Assistant Treasurer and to the late Colonel Mel Rosen for his years as Counselor. Mike will continue to be the Editor for the Society's newsletter and with his daughter, Christa, manage our outstanding website - www.philippine-scouts.org. We're grateful to all for your devoted service.

At our closing dinner, Colonel Mel Rosen, Counselor Emeritus, and Major Fred Foz, President Emeritus, both received the Society's lifetime achievement awards. Their sons gave moving comments about their fathers' lives and their love of the Scouts. It was a very touching and poignant ceremony. Sadly, Colonel Rosen passed away in August. He will be sorely missed. Colonel and Mrs. Rosen were stalwarts at our reunions, strong supporters of the Society and devoted to the Scouts.

The reunion ended with over 200 people attending our closing dinner. The achievement awards, roll call of Scouts, inspiring remarks by General Hilman, together with Scout reenactors with us for the first time and the festivities of the evening made the reunion a resounding success. Again, Joe and Goody, thank you.

So, on we go to San Francisco for our next Annual Reunion and Business



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

Meeting. Cion Rael, President of the GGBAC Chapter and her group will host the event on Friday, May 23, 2008 and Saturday, May 24, 2008. Cion has already reserved the Embassy Suites Hotel in Burlingame near the San Francisco airport for those days, so please mark your calendars accordingly. Details will appear on our website and in the next newsletter.

Thank you one and all for supporting the Society. In the years ahead as we lose more and more of these extraordinary warriors, that support will be more important than ever.

Sen. John Alexander Patterson
President
Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

First Vice-President's Letter

My sincere thanks go to the members and officers of the Capt. Jose C. Calugas, Sr. Chapter for their outstanding contribution to make the 23rd National Annual Reunion at La Quinta Inn and Suites in Tacoma a success.

The Filipino Reenactors namely, Philip Garcia, Arturo Garcia, Teddy Ortega, and Victor Virano who came from out of the State of Washington made the evening program something to remember. My hats off to them for doing a terrific job! Let us not forget all the Philippine Scouts, their wives, sons and daughters who were present. One of the highlights of the evening program was the role call of the living Philippine Scout veterans. Major Urbano Quijance, 57th Infantry (PS) finally met Col. John Olson, who was a junior officer with the 57th Infantry during the war.

I also want to thank BG. Oscar Hilman (Ret.) our keynote speaker and his beautiful wife Patricia for his outstanding speech about the Philippine Scouts. The master of ceremonies

Mrs. Zenaida Crisostomo Slemph did an exemplary job.

One of the reenactors in Los Angeles area by the name of Gil Mislang, sent me an e-mail that he will try to activate one of the PSHS Chapters in the area. Some of the reenactors were interested to join the chapter. Let us help Mr. Mislang in his work to reactivate one of the chapters in the Los Angeles area.

Sen. John Patterson our National President sent me an e-mail about the 501(c)(3), how to stay exempt. This is to remind the members and especially the officers of the Society against jeopardizing 501(c)(3) status. Please browse the website www.stayexempt.org for more information.

Col. Melvin Rosen died August 1, 2007. He went to the Philippines after graduating from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1940. He was a young officer with the 2nd Battalion, 88th Field Artillery (PS), the same Battalion my father was assigned to. We will miss a proud and honorable Philippine Scout. My prayers are with his loving wife and family.



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

I am looking forward to the 24th National Annual Reunion May 2008 in San Francisco. The GGBAC Chapter will host it again, thank you, Cion and members. See you in San Francisco!

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

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. This already is paying dividends, with close to 31,000 visits, an increase of about 6,000 since our last newsletter.

Our message board, which is visited by seventy or eighty viewers daily, now contains about 350 topics and 1,150 comment postings. By the time you receive this, over 5,700 will have signed up as message board members which is more than a threefold increase just this year. 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 projects 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>

Family Found From Page 1

her mother, who remarried but burst into sobs every time he was mentioned.

She was told he had a good sense of humor and that he loved to dance. She had his Purple Heart and a photograph of him in his dress whites that hangs in her hall.

But no memories.

"I grew up knowing there were two sisters," she said, now knowing her father had six sisters and one brother. "But how am I supposed to find two women who got married and probably changed their names?"

The photo in the hall is what led her to her father's family after her husband, Walter Earnest—who was in the Army security agency and collects military pins and crests—noticed the pin on Bauer's uniform and researched it on the Internet.

He was led to the **Philippines Scouts Heritage Society**, where Walter posted a message:

"Need help with information about my wife's father. Died while POW on Japanese ship that was sunk 12/15/44. Burial site BSMPH? All DOD records lost in stateside fire. West Point Class of 1936. Thanks, Walter Earnest."

Hours later, he got an e-mail response from a society member who pointed him to another message board where Creighton Demarest—the son of Bauer's sole remaining of six sisters—had posted a similar message more than a year earlier.

Demarest said he had nearly given up on an answer and at first thought

Earnest's e-mail to him was a joke.

"I wondered whether it was a hoax," he said last week.

"But when I opened up a link, it had my uncle's Philippine Army ID card. I knew that could not be reproduced."

Nancy Earnest had to sit down when her husband told her. "I nearly fell over when Walter called me and told me, 'Your aunt is looking for you.'"

She was overwhelmed by emotion—and still is.

"Family is everything to me," Nancy Earnest said. "And I think that the Bauers have always felt that way too. Evidently they wondered about me all these years. When my aunt called me, she said, 'We have been looking for you. Where have you been?'"

Apparently, they knew that Bauer had had a daughter, but her mother lost contact with the family during the war.

"My mother didn't know them very well. I don't think she was ever at the farm. It was a time of great upheaval for her, and when she got remarried she just let it go. And I don't blame her for that," Earnest said.

She loved her stepfather and half-siblings but missed out on an extended family.

"My grandmother lived until 1980. If I had been able to find more information in the 70s . . .," she said, without finishing the thought. "I probably should have picked up the phone and called the directory in Hammonsport, N.Y., looking for Bauer."

There, her father's family couldn't speak about the fallen soldier either.

"His death was such a tragedy that nobody was talking about it in the family for all these years," said Demarest, 55, a BMW salesman in Connecticut. "When Carl was pronounced dead in the Philippines, his mother was devastated. She did not want to talk about it. You didn't ask her about it.

"That's why nobody knew."

The reunion—the Earnests flew up urgently last month because Creighton's mother, who is 80, was in the hospital—has been emotional for him as well.

"I basically cry every day over it, in memory of her father," said Creighton, whose uncle also died a few months ago.

His mother, who calls Nancy Earnest on the phone at least once a week now to chat, is also extremely touched, he said.

"She's extremely emotional that I stuck with this idea of mine that somewhere maybe Nancy was out there and it would be nice to find them and let them know that we've been looking for them."

The Earnests plan on making it to the annual family reunion, if not this summer, then next year—for her father.

Major Bauer was an officer in the 45th Infantry (PS). Article reprinted by permission of the Miami Herald. The author can be contacted at edevall@MiamiHerald.com. Editor

Victory in Defeat From Page 1

only about 6,000 troops, as their forces were all fighting in North Africa. The Japanese would have gone through New Zealand and Australia like a hot knife through butter. Then what was going to stop the Japanese from taking Hawaii? The U.S. was still reeling from the disaster at Pearl Harbor. Instead of 50 days, the Fill-American forces on Bataan and Corregidor held out for 150

days, thereby completely upsetting the Japanese timetable for victory in the Pacific. The Fil-American forces, fighting with no air support and with no hope of ever getting any replacements, held out until their ammunition, their weapons, medicine, food, and, yes, people just plain gave out. But we gave the United States what it needed most of all and that was time!

I submit that even in defeat, the Fil-American forces on Bataan and Corregidor may have given the United States one of its more important victories of WWII.

Col. Rosen spoke these words at the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society reunion in May 2002. He passed away on August 1 at the age of 89.

Philippine Scout Reunion is Smooth-Running Success

Highlights of the two-day Tacoma reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society included a series of panels and information sessions, a business meeting and a gala concluding dinner. The two panels were on the New Philippine Scouts, chaired by **Col. John Olson** and **CWO4 Aniceto Bagley**; and on WWII nurses on Bataan and Corregidor, chaired by **Goody Calugas**. Included on the nurses' panel were Sue Trout daughter of **Lt. Lewey**, USNC, POW and **LTC. Floramund Fellmeth Difford**, an energetic 92 year old retired Army surgical nurse who escaped capture when assigned to accompany wounded soldiers evacuated by ship to Australia as the Japanese closed in.

An information session on Veterans Benefits was conducted by **Lawrence Low**, Social Worker of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and **Eric Lachica**, Executive Director, Filipino WWII Veterans Equity Campaign, updated the membership on progress towards passing this important legislation. (It now appears that a Veterans Equity bill providing Filipino veterans with more benefits is likely to be enacted into law sometime this fall.)



PSHS President Sen. John Patterson with keynote speaker Brigadier General Oscar Hilman



From L to R: National Secretary Nora Warren; Historian and retired Scout Col. John E. Olson; Keynote speaker General Hilman and his wife; President Sen. John Patterson; Tacoma Chapter President/National Vice President Joe Calugas

The keynote address by **Brigadier General Oscar Hilman** was the most important event at the gala banquet the final evening of the reunion. General Hilman, the son of a former Philippine Scout, is the retired commanding officer of the 81st Armored Brigade which distinguished itself in Iraq in 2004. He spoke knowledgeably on the present performance and future direction of the U.S. Army.

The professional performance of an honor guard of **Filipino Reenactors** also impressed those attending the dinner program. Following dinner, the **D'Variations**, a local band, provided dance music.

More than 200 guests attended the gala dinner, the largest such reunion crowd in many years.

The evening was kept on schedule by **Mrs. Zenaida Crisostomo Slep**, who performed ably as mistress of ceremonies. The entire weekend was smoothly orchestrated by the members of the **Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter** led by Chapter President **Jose "Joe" Calugas, Jr.**

The reunion was covered by two local newspapers, the *News Tribune* and the *Tacoma Weekly*.



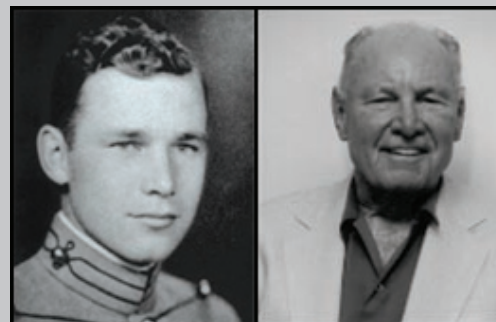
Reenactors in front of the head table during the closing banquet.



Col. John Olson and Major Urbano Quijance reunite for the first time since combat in 1942.

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 five such articles: on our front page is "Family Found" by **Elaine de Valle** of the *Miami Herald* concerning the family reunification of **Maj. Karol "Carl" Anthony Bauer's** relatives, which took place more than sixty years after his WWII death and came about because of our PSHS website. The first article on this page is the completion of **Dr. Isabelo Torio's** story of survival as a young **26th Cavalry (PS)** trooper during combat, the Bataan Death March and prison camp. The second piece is based on interviews of several Scouts about their WWII recollections by GGBAC member **Paul Ruiz**, during a past reunion. The final two articles are: a remembrance by **Jean Hall** of her father, **Captain George Frothingham Fisher, 57th Infantry (PS)**, who was killed in the early days of combat on Bataan; and an account of a grandson's successful seven year campaign to have his Philippine Scout grandfather's combat death recognized by Arlington National Cemetery. A plaque honoring the supreme sacrifice of **Corporal Fernando Baltazar, 45th Infantry (PS)**, was erected in July and an official ceremony held in August.

OF THINGS REMEMBERED (conclusion)

Dr. Isabelo S. Torio

The second and final installment of Dr. Isabelo S. Torio's personal account of his experiences in the 26th Cavalry (PS) and as a guerrilla following the USAFFE surrender begins below. In the previous chapter he discussed the Northern Luzon campaign, the defense of Bataan, the surrender and Death March, and his escape from captivity. The text has been slightly edited.

III. MY LIFE AFTER ESCAPE:

I found out that the civilian camp was located in the town of Orani. As I wandered in the civilian camp, I met some people I knew from Fort Stotsenberg. They asked me to go with them. For several days, I stayed with them in the camp. Then we hired a boatman to bring us to a town called Minalin. We rode on one boat, but because of bad weather, I feared that the boat would capsize, so I decided to transfer to another boat that came along. This boat went to a different area, thus I got separated from them.

See *Of Things Remembered* Page 8

Philippine Scout Memories

By Paul Ruiz

As this article, based on interviews during the 2005 reunion, primarily concerns Scout recollections of WWII, it remains of interest two years later. Editor

On December 8, 1941, retired **Captain Menandro Parazo** was a young sergeant attached to the 26th Cavalry of the famed Philippine Scouts, when the Japanese attacked his homeland, several hours after having bombed Pearl Harbor. Parazo, now 88, still recalls how his unit was given the order by a messenger on a galloping horse going up the line that they would be moving out, and to "stand by your horses." He described how one of the Army chaplains gave them their last rites as they made final preparations, thus dispelling any doubt that they would be headed north to engage the enemy.

Retired **Colonel Melvin Rosen** was Battery Commander of Easy Company, 88th Field Artillery Philippine
See *Philippine Scout Memories* Page 9

My Legacy by Jean F. Hall page.....11

Filipino War Hero to be Remembered at Arlington National Cemetery by Chris Schaefer page.....13

Of Things Remembered From Page 7

I landed in a place where I was a total stranger with no money and nothing at all but with the company of some escaped soldiers like me. The people there were very hospitable. They gave us food. I was so tired that I dozed off in that house by the fishpond. When I woke up, I was astonished to see a middle-aged couple looking down on me. I greeted them and asked what was going on. They told me "Nothing", but then they offered to adopt me as they said that they were childless. They said that they were looking at me while I was asleep. They were very sympathetic to me and decided to take me home with them. They told me that they lived in a place surrounded by fishponds. I told them that I liked to live by the fishpond.

Dysentery - How I cured it without medicine

Several days later while staying with my adoptive family, I got sick with dysentery. I asked my new parents to give me some raw bananas, but these did not give me a relief. I was getting sicker and sicker and felt very miserable as days went on. We were living in the middle of fishponds. I started to take a bath in the river every morning. And while in the river with salty sea water, I instinctively inserted my fingers into my anal canal. I did not even know why I did that, but [it was] as if some one [told me] to do it. The salty sea water got into my rectal canal and gave me a good feeling. So I did it every morning and lo and behold, on the seventh day, I felt a formed stool in my rectum. I knew then that I got rid of my dysentery. I thanked the Lord for showing me the cure my dreadful dysentery.

Malaria - How it led me to become a beggar

After staying in the fishpond area, we moved to the town of Minalin. During my stay in Minalin with my adopted

parents, I got sick with malaria. Every morning, along with several escaped POW's, we went out to have sun bath to get rid of the malarial chill (shivering cold). This cold spell would be followed by high fever and sweating after which our body temperature would gradually return to normal until the next day when the chill and fever would start all over again.

Since my malaria was getting worse, I consulted a doctor and told him that I belonged to the US Army and had no money. I told him that I would pay him when the US Army would come back. The doctor told me that "no money, no treatment". I went home very disappointed. My adoptive parents could not help me. That night I pondered very hard how I could get money to pay the doctor. In the town of Minalin where I lived, there were some escaped soldiers who are also suffering from malaria and other diseases. In their fight for survival, they murdered and robbed. I prayed so hard to God to give me the right decision. I needed the money very badly to pay the doctor. I analyzed every possibility. I thought that if I would rob there was the possibility that I would get caught or killed or be put to jail. If I would murder in order to rob, and if I would also get caught would either be killed or put to jail. I thought that those acts were criminal and immoral acts that I could not do. And, the last thing I thought was to beg.

A beggar for a day

The following morning, I woke up early and told my adoptive parents that I would visit a friend. I was weak and anemic, but with determination, I went knocking from door to door and told people the purpose of my begging. Some people were very sympathetic and gave me cash and some gave me rice and other offered me food. Others offered me to stay with them. During the process of

begging, on my way to the next house, I saw the people I met in the civilian camp, the same people I was supposed to ride with in the boat.

They offered me to stay with them, but I declined. Then I decided to go home with the money other things I got from begging. I got P160 pesos in cash. I divided the money and gave P80.00 to my adoptive parents and spent the rest for my medical treatment. We stayed in the town of Minalin for a while before moving to another town called Macabebe. Minalin had become dangerous for me because of the presence of Japanese garrison in the town.

During my stay in Macabebe, there were lots of parents looking for their sons. At one time, a couple claimed me as their son. They were so happy, only to be told that I was not their son. Then one day a woman who was looking for her son came to my place and asked me if I knew her son, Capt. Reyes from Lingayen, Pangasinan, which was my hometown. I told her that I knew her son, but I did not know where he was. At that moment, I asked her if she could deliver my letter to my parents as she lived in my hometown. She agreed. I wrote a letter to my parents informing them where I was. Three months later, my brother came to pick me up. We were indeed very happy to be reunited. I bade good-bye to my adoptive parents and thanked them profusely. They were very sad to see me go. I asked money from my brother to give them. I invited them to visit me. My family and relatives were very happy when I came home alive. I was still sick so they took me to Bugallon District Hospital where I was confined for a few weeks of malarial treatment.

In due time, I was cured of the malaria and joined my brother in his buy and sell business.

Luzon Campaign 1944 - 1945

Guerilla Life: I set up a rice business in Mangatarem, Pangasinan that was located in the southwestern part of Pangasinan, along the Zambales Mountain. In 1944, I joined the guerilla unit under Lt. Ching Villa. He appointed me to take charge of the communications unit. My duty was to alert the unit of the movements of the Japanese forces. To warn of the coming of the Japanese forces, we would beat a cut segment of bamboo to produce sound, which could be heard from one barangay to the other barangay called Kalongkong. Through this we eliminated the need for a runner to spread the alarm from one guerilla unit to the other. We used several codes to let the other party know of any imminent danger. We also sent messages using rolled paper disguised like a cigarette, which could be distributed without suspicion.

January 1945

When I heard about the imminent landing of the Liberation Force in Lingayen, a co-guerilla and I went to see my family in Salasa, Bugallon, Pan-

gasinan, which was about three miles from the beach.

We were not able to reach my family residence because the liberation force began shelling and bombing the landing area. To get out of the area, we ran towards the summit of Zambales Mountain. From the mountain, overlooking Lingayen Gulf, we saw the American liberation battleships scattered all over the gulf as far as I could see. The fire power of the American armada was awesome that the entire gulf looked full of fire when some of the Japanese Kamikaze planes approaches to bomb the Liberation ships only to be shot down.

I witnessed Kamikaze planes being shot down, planes being shot with their pilots bailing out. Oh, it was quite a sight to behold. Meanwhile, we went to the beach and introduced my self to the liberating forces that landed in Lingayen. I joined the 5th Cavalry Division as the guide and point man. We proceeded to attack the Japanese resistance around my hometown of Bugallon and proceeded to liberate the Masinloc Mining Company in Zambales.

After that I left the Cavalry Division and reported to the U.S. Army Processing Center in Calasaio, Pangasinan. I was assigned to the Military Police Battalion, and was stationed in Baclaran, Metro Manila. After a year in the Military Police Battalion, I requested to be discharged to go back to school. With firm determination, I continued with my college education and finished my degree as Doctor of Medicine.

At this point in time, I strongly believe that God has His plans for all of us. We have different experiences in life, but conclusively, everything that happens to us is our Fate that is designed exclusively for us by our Creator. How we live is a test to our trust and faith in Him. Thank you all and Mabuhay!

Presented during the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Reunion and Conference held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Francisco, CA on May 28, 2006.

Isabelo Santos Torio, M.D. May 28, 2006

Philippine Scouts Memories From Page 7

Scouts, when the war in the Pacific began. A 1940 graduate of West Point, he was well aware that all of their mettle would be tested in the coming days.

Author, and Philippine Scout historian, retired **Colonel John Olson**, was a 1st Lieutenant, serving with the 57th Infantry, Philippine Scouts. A 1939 graduate of West Point, he still vividly recalls the incredible heroism, sacrifices, and suffering that the Philippine defenders endured during the war.

These veterans were among several surviving Philippine Scouts who gathered on May 27-28, 2005 in San Mateo, CA, to attend the annual meeting of

the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS). The general meeting of the reunion began simply and poignantly, with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. The Scouts, now in their 80's and 90's, stood at attention, some with great effort, and earnestly sang to the taped music.

Throughout the course of the two-day reunion, various discussions took place, from addressing the importance of maintaining the organization's goals of perpetuating the legacy of the Philippine Scouts, to a very popular panel discussion of the war. Saturday evening's dinner featured the keynote speaker, Philippine Consul General of

San Francisco, the **Honorable Rowena Sanchez**, who later swore in the new PSHS national officers.

The Philippine Scouts

The Scouts were formed by an act of the U.S. Congress at the turn of the 20th century to enlist 6,000 Filipinos, to be known as "Philippine Scouts." They would be formed into 50 company-sized units, led by American officers, and their role would be to assist the American forces in securing the peace in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. They would be fed, billeted, and paid by the United States. In the decades

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that followed, the Scouts distinguished themselves as elite soldiers, and at approximately 12,000 strong by the start of WWII, they became the lynch pin that would defend the Philippines following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Reflecting on a military career that spanned 30 years, Col Rosen stated, "The Philippine Scouts were the most highly disciplined, trained, and courageous soldiers I have ever run into in the U.S. Army." This was to be an oft-repeated theme throughout the course of the reunion by former commanding officers who described how the Japanese sustained heavy casualties when they engaged the Scouts during the defense of the Philippines from December 8, 1941, to the ordered surrender on May 6, 1942.

The Japanese Invasion

Anticipating an impending Japanese invasion, War Plan Orange 3 (WPO3), called for a fighting retreat into the Bataan peninsula. There, the Army would fight a delaying tactic, holding the lines as long as possible, before falling back to new positions. The plan anticipated that the US fleet would be able to fight its way through to the Philippines and provide needed reinforcements and supplies. However, with the decimation of the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, and Washington's decision to direct their focus to the war in Europe before sparing any available resources to the Far East, the Philippine defenders were essentially doomed.

Allied air support was either weak or non-existent, with aircraft having been destroyed by Japanese planes at Clark Field several hours after Pearl Harbor through a series of miscommunication, weather related issues, and bad luck. Although Captain Parazo's 26th Cavalry was supported by the 192nd tank

battalion, they received unrelenting naval artillery and air fire. "We could see Japanese fighter pilots laughing at us when they came in low because we had no air support. We had to resort to firing back at the planes with small arms fire either on our backs as the planes flew low, or head-on as the planes came at us." Parazo also described the chaos of horses going wild, artillery shells exploding around them, and soldiers dying. Amidst this scene of terror, he recalled a peculiar battlefield discussion with a commanding officer:

"Where's my orderly?"
"He's been hit, sir, he's dead."
"What about my horse?"
"I don't know sir."
"Where is my saddlebag?"
"I don't know sir."
"Oh...where the hell is my whiskey?"

Parazo described the excruciating experience of seeing wounded men die, and how "every one of them" would call out for their mothers with their final breaths. "They never called for their daddy," he added, with a slight smile.

With an open supply channel for men and materials to pour into the Philippines unencumbered, the Japanese commander, Masaharu Homma, was given the order to completely subjugate the Philippines in 50 days. What was to transpire in the ensuing months would be one of the most significant, yet underappreciated events in WWII. Despite having, in many instances, outdated WWI equipment; severely dwindling supplies; and many defenders experiencing the onset of malnutrition, malaria, and dysentery, the defenders of Bataan steadfastly thwarted repeated attacks, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the Japanese.

According to Col. Rosen, "Had the Japanese been able to adhere to their plan of conquering the Philippines in 50 days,

it was anticipated that they would invade New Zealand, which was essentially defenseless, and Australia, which had committed much of its forces to the fighting in North Africa. The Japanese would have gone through New Zealand and Australia like a hot knife through butter."

However, the tenaciousness with which the defenders fought, led to unexpectedly high Japanese losses in men and material, rendering them unable to execute these prior plans. When the inevitable surrender finally did occur on April 9, 1942 - some 150 days from the initial invasion - and the nearby island fortress of Corregidor fell one month later, General Homma was relieved of his command. The defenders of Bataan and Corregidor had significantly upset the Japanese timetable to conquer Asia. After the war, Homma would be tried and executed for war crimes related to the post surrender Death March.

The Death March

The April 9, 1942 surrender was the largest ever by an American force. With the Japanese being unprepared for the sheer numbers of sick and malnourished prisoners, approximately 15,000 Americans and 60,000 Filipinos were forced to march from the tip of the Bataan peninsula to the prison camp at Camp O'Donnell, 65 miles away. Men who had already been sick and malnourished for several months, were now forced to complete this march in the tropical heat with scant provisions of food and water. Those who survived the journey, punctuated by Japanese cruelty, would be imprisoned at O'Donnell where many would die from disease and starvation. During the march, those who could not keep up were often bayoneted or shot by their Japanese guards. Colonel Olsen commented that "Whether you made it or not depended on what your condition was like at the start of the march."

Japanese soldiers were so angered at the casualties inflicted upon them by the Scouts that identified Scouts could be subject to some of the cruelest punishment. **Major Fredric Foz**, then incoming national president of the PSHS, noted during a panel discussion that six decades later, he becomes filled with fear whenever he sees a man digging a hole. He explained that during the march, he saw several who dug their own graves and were bayoneted. "They did not regard us as humans, but as animals," Parazo added. **Lt. Col Edwin Ramsey** discussed his war-time experiences as a guerrilla, explaining that surrendering to the Japanese often meant death.

While thousands died on the 4 day march, Col Olson further noted that in 5 months, 26,000 Filipinos died at O'Donnell, and in the 2 months that the Americans were there before being transferred to Cabanatuan, 1500 died. Some Filipinos were released from prison as a goodwill gesture to gain compliance from the local population. Some escaped. Many, including Parazo, became guerrillas and continued to fight until General MacArthur returned in 1944. Others, like Colonel Rosen,

were destined for labor camps in Japan, transported on "hell ships" where the torturous conditions down in the overcrowded, hot, and filthy holds resulted in horrific stories of madness and death for many. Having survived the hell ship journey to Japan, he would later be liberated from the labor camp following the surrender of Japan in 1945.

The Philippine Scouts were eventually disbanded in 1949, with many of the Filipinos opting to continue their careers in the regular army. Captain Parazo retired in 1972, and worked for RCA, until 1984. Colonel Rosen retired in 1970, and worked for Rand and Litton Industries until 1985. In retirement, Colonel Olson was instrumental in helping to establish the Fort Sam Houston Museum in San Antonio, Texas, as the official repository of Philippine Scouts records and memorabilia.

While there were many heroic actions performed by the defenders on Bataan and Corregidor, the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to three members of the Philippine Scouts: **1st Lt. Alexander Nininger**; **Captain Jose Calugas**, and **1st Lt. Willibald Bianchi**.

The day after the reunion, the display items, viewed by many guests in the hotel lobby, had been packed away. The participants said their goodbyes, and prepared to return to their homes, some as far away as Virginia, Hawaii, and Texas. The veterans moved slowly about the hotel lobby – no doubt the result of age and many decades of toil. In the eyes of others, these measured movements reflected the sacrifices of proud and dignified men who had suffered much, and given every measure of themselves to defend the Philippines. Colonel Rosen provided one last point of consideration, namely, "That even in defeat, the Philippine and American forces on Bataan and Corregidor may have given the United States one of its most important victories in World War II."

The author, a PSHS member, resides in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and three children. His father, 1st Lieutenant Jose Ruiz, was a Philippine Scout who survived the Death March, prison camps, and subsequently fought as a guerrilla. The author welcomes comments and can be contacted at akbar8@pacbell.net.

My Legacy

by **Jean F. Hall**

The 57th Infantry (PS), a unit first commissioned during the Civil War, found its young officers building an Army at Fort McKinley, just outside Manila, Philippine Islands. This was 1937 - 38 and it was a wonderful life. They were a mixture of West Point graduates and reservists from ROTC programs.

The Philippines were a world away, promising travel and adventure for a carefree bachelor. For a married man it was also a chance for travel and an opportunity to educate his children. The

only assignment was to establish an all Philippine Army.

One man, my father, was serving in the Reserves here in the States. In 1940, Captain George Frothingham Fisher was ordered to serve a year on overseas maneuvers. In January, 1941, he sailed from San Francisco, California, stopping briefly in Hawaii, arriving in Manila about May. He was promoted to Major and was in charge of supplies.

I was 8 and my sister was 7 years old. Mother had the trunk all packed for our departure in August. Word

came that all dependents were being shipped home. This also included a few officers with family who had served the required time.

It was an easy life; almost royal. Homes on base, servants to tend to all needs; parties - what one would call "The Good Life."

Came the day the headlines read: "Japs Bomb Pearl Harbor." Disbelief at first: a joke. When the Japanese began to bomb the Northern Philippines, reality struck home. The lifestyle was gone.

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My Legacy From Page 11

General Douglas McArthur marshaled his forces - American and Philippine together. Retreat to Bataan where a defense could be established.

On January 15, 1942, the first officer from Pennsylvania fell. He was Major George F. Fisher. It was a quiet day and two Filipino soldiers and he went to the river to bathe. He was killed when a lone plane flew over and dropped a single bomb. It was a shock to all who served with him.

The war continued with devastating consequences for all the men and women serving there. Finally, Major General Edward P. King surrendered and the ordeal began: The Death March; Camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan; the devastating sea voyage to Japan, Korea, and China.

In 1945 the World War II was over. Peace once again! The survivors came home. Several wrote letters to my mother - to praise her husband and offer sympathy.

In December of 1984, John E. Olson wrote his story for the "VFW Magazine." As it turned out, this was the same John Olson who was a roommate of my father at Fort McKinley. We exchanged letters. After 43 years the few survivors were to hold their first reunion in Grand Junction, Colorado. Would it be possible for me to come? I was so honored to be asked. Imagine - these men were a link and knew my father.

I came home from that reunion to catch-up on my history of the Pacific Theatre. The stories of the POW camps were brutal with very little food, cloth-

ing, or medicines. Many did not have the resources to survive.

At that first reunion, I was made an "unofficial" member of the 57th Infantry (PS). It is such an honor. Also "King Quan" was established. Where the King lives is where the next reunion would be held. Quan is just a word but can take on many meanings: as in the camps it might mean rice, medicine or an item for bartering.

And I attended several of these reunions. It was always such an honor to be there.

And the 57th motto: "Anytime, Anywhere".

The author, Jean Hall, writing to honor the memory of her Philippine Scout father, is a lifetime member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.



U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge
26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts)
Bataan, January 1942

The U.S. Cavalry Association has copies available of a new painting by John Solie, "U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge," reproduced in 100 high quality paper print copies, 16" x 20", of which a number remain. The color prints depict LT Edwin Ramsey and Philippine Scouts of the 26th Cavalry on Bataan, January 1942. Each print is numbered and has been signed by Edwin Ramsey. The cost is \$195, including tax, shipping and handling. Prints may be ordered by sending a check to: U.S. Cavalry Association, c/o Philip L. Bolte, 175 Warrior Creek Drive, West Union, SC 29696.

Filipino War Hero to be Remembered at Arlington National Cemetery

By Chris Schaefer

After six years of sometimes frustrating effort, Gregg Baltazar Timbol received an important post card: "This is to inform you that the memorial marker has been received at Arlington National Cemetery."

Sixty years ago Gregg's Filipino grandfather, Corporal Fernando Baltazar, was killed in action fighting for the United States at the beginning of World War II. On January 23, 1942 Corporal Baltazar's unit, the 45th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, was ordered into the front line on Luzon Island in the Philippines to attack a Japanese regiment that made an amphibious landing on the rocky cliffs of Bataan Peninsula in the dead of night.

The battle raged on in the dense jungle for more than a week and although the 45th was ultimately successful in driving the Japanese force back over the cliffs and into the sea, many men were killed. Corporal Baltazar's body was never recovered. The Army posthumously awarded him the Bronze Star for his bravery in combat, and the Purple Heart for his fatal wounds.

Fernando's three young daughters were left orphans and there was no one to arrange a memorial service for him.

Having heard the story of his grandfather's bravery as he was growing up, Gregg Baltazar Timbol, decided to do something about it. He began in 2000 by applying for U.S. citizenship for his grandfather. Non-citizen soldiers killed in action in the U.S. Army are sometimes eligible for posthumous citizenship, a



Standing, left to right: Mrs. Marylou Plata, Naval Cadet Catherine Plata, Mr. Donald Plata, Consul Enrico T. Fos, Mrs. Olive Rosen, MGen. Delfin Lorenzana
Kneeling: Naval Cadet Christine Plata, Mr. Gregg Baltazar Timbol

special honor which does not convey benefits but recognizes the soldier's personal sacrifice.

The application was first delayed and then denied because a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973 had destroyed Fernando Baltazar's Army records. Gregg re-submitted the application through Senator Dianne Feinstein's office and it has again been denied, but Gregg is submitting another appeal.

During this process Maxine McLean, a member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society whose father commanded Fernando Baltazar's unit, urged Gregg to contact the National Battle Monuments Commission to see

if his grandfather could be honored at Arlington National Cemetery.

Gregg submitted the application on April 30, and got a quick response. Just after the 4th of July, 2007 Arlington installed a marker commemorating Corporal Fernando Baltazar. On August 14 Gregg, his family, and any others attended a U.S. Army memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., honoring the bravery and sacrifice of Corporal Fernando Baltazar, more than sixty years ago.

Chris Schaefer is a Vietnam combat veteran, an author and the Public Relations Officer for the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

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:

Major Fred Foz and **Col. Mel Rosen** were selected for the Society's Lifetime Achievement Award at our annual meeting. Col. Rosen passed away shortly after the reunion and his obituary is the *In Memoriam* section of this newsletter.

Zosimo Guiang, long-time GGBA Chapter member, reports that **SFC Edilberto Vergara**, 92 yrs old, is living in San Francisco. The two served together in the 86th Artillery (PS) during WWII.

As we go to press, **National President John Patterson** is at West Point attending the second annual awarding of the *Alexander R. Nininger Award for Valor at Arms*. This award not only recognizes recent West Point graduates who have been cited for heroism in battle, but also keeps alive the memory of one of the Academy's greatest warriors—**Lt. Sandy Nininger**, 57th Infantry (PS), who was awarded a Medal of Honor posthumously for combat heroism while defending Bataan.

Since the last newsletter, John also has spoken to several Rhode Island

groups concerning his late uncle, Sandy Nininger, the Philippine Scouts and WWII.

Lt. Col. Ed and Raqui Ramsey have been invited by both the House and Senate Committees to be present in the White House for the signing ceremony for the Filipino veterans pension equity bill which is expected to become law before the end of this year. Ed has previously testified before Congress in favor of this legislation.

The Ramsey's attended the mid-September Fort Riley, Kansas, inauguration of the new Painting of the "*U S Cavalry's Last Charge*". Ed, as a young officer in the 26th Cavalry (PS), led this historic charge in Morong, Bataan, on January 16th, 1942. *Information on ordering prints of this painting is available elsewhere in this newsletter.*

Earlier in September Ed was the keynote speaker when the *San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum and Center* held, for the first time, a ceremony commemorating the Liberation of the Philippines. About 300 attended the event, which was covered by the *San Diego Tribune*.

A print of the Last Cavalry Charge is now on display in the Museum.

Col. John E. Olson has spoken several times on the Philippine Scouts and continues to process Scout information in cooperation with the Fort Sam Houston Museum.

Authors **Elizabeth** and **Michael Norman** are finishing the final, chapter of their new book *Tears in the Darkness* and expect to have it published in the fall of 2008. It represents nine years of research and some 3,000 documents and books, as well as more than 500 interviews, including 23 with former Imperial Army soldiers.

Lina Susbilla, owner of Lina's Flower Shop in Daly City, continues to provide flowers gratis for PSHS members, thereby honoring the request of her father, **Pablo Mesina**, a veteran of the 45th Infantry (PS). Lina has been providing this generous service for over two years.

Chapter News

Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter: The 23rd PSHS National Reunion held on May 18-19, 2007 at La Quinta Inn & Suites, Tacoma was a total success. The members and officers worked hard in planning for and running the reunion. Congratulations to each and every one who participated in the program.

Chapter President/National Vice President Joe and **National Treasurer Goody Calugas** combined with the Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter to donate \$75 to the PSHS general fund.

New chapter members include **Adora Figuracion Brouillared**, daughter of **Dan Figuracion**, 26th Cavalry (PS), **Leila Mukai**, **Simplicio S. Ochoa**, 23rd Field Artillery (PS), **Robert B. Hitchcock**, **J. Carmoreau Hatier**, son of **Col. Joseph Carmoreau Hatier**, Commanding officer of the 45th Infantry (PS) in the mid 1930's, and **LTC. Dennis P. Mocorro**, USAF (Ret), the son of the late **Mark Mocorro**, founder and first president of the Tacoma Chapter. **Chapter President and National V.P. Joe Calugas, Jr.** reports that the chap-

ter now has 61 members, all but six of whom are life members.

Lastly, **Mrs. Dometela Mocorro**, wife of the late **Mark P. Mocorro** founder and First President of the *Capt. Jose C. Calugas, Sr. Chapter* in Tacoma died in July. The son **Jesse M. Mocorro**, and daughter **Linda Mocorro Nyman** are life members of the Tacoma Chapter.

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 and LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapters: Currently inactive; however, a group of Filipino reenactors are attempting to resuscitate a Los Angeles area chapter. Included in this group are **Gil Mislant, Jun Mislant, Rudy Mislant, Philip Garcia, Ray Ortega, Teddy Ortega, Victor Verano, Rudy Cabigas, Frank Tinio Lopez, Ramil Oyteza, Joseph Rocamora** and **Anthony Ardison**. All or most of them are members of the

Filipino WWII military reenactment group called the *Buhay na Kasaysayan* (Living History). This group took part in our May reunion in Tacoma.

Monterey County Chapter:
No activities reported.

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

In Memoriam

First Lt. Jose “Joe” S. Aquino, born in 1916 in Pagasinan Province, passed away in San Francisco on August 24. Soledad, his wife of 69 years, predeceased him by four months, as did his son, Fred, who passed away in 1971. He is survived by a brother and sister; and by his remaining two sons, Renato and Robert and their families.

Joe enlisted in 1935 with the 92nd Coast Artillery Corps (PS). Becoming a POW when Corregidor fell, he joined the guerrilla resistance upon release. Rejoining the Army in 1945, he was commissioned in the Military Police. When Philippine Scout units were decommissioned, he became a master sergeant in the U.S. Army, retiring from the 163rd Military Police Company as a first lieutenant. His decorations included: the American Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with Bronze Star; the Philippine Defense Ribbon with Bronze Star; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star; the Distinguished Unit Badge with two Oak-Leaf Clusters; and the POW Medal.

Joe was president of the national Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

from 1996-2001, as well as a founding member of the Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. He was a life member of several other veterans’ organizations.

SFC Geoffray Dumaguít, Co. “B”, 14th Engineers Bn. (PS), passed away August 27 in Cathedral City, CA. Geoff was one of the founding members of the Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter. In 1941 he enlisted as a machine gunner in the Scouts and was a Bataan Death March survivor. Following WWII, he continued in the U.S. Army, serving in the Korea War before retiring in 1961.

His military decorations included a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, POW Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Philippine Defense Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Presidential Unit Emblem, and Philippine Republic Citation.

Geoffray Dumaguít is survived by Alicia Tejada Dumaguít, his wife for 57 years, sons Geoffray Jr., Gerald and George, daughter Grace; and two grandsons.

MSGT Dionisio (Denny) Ganioco, Co F, 12th QM Regt. (PS), passed away on Jan 29 in Alhambra, CA after a long bout with cancer. He was 93 years old.

Col. Daniel Laureta Ledda, a much decorated veteran of World War II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died on August 10 in Sacramento, California at the age of 88. Col. Ledda was born in Balaoan, La Union, Philippines and raised in Tondo, Manila. He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1942. As a company commander on Bataan, Captain Ledda received life-threatening injuries from a hand grenade, shrapnel from which he carried to the end of his life. Recovering, he returned to battle. He survived the Death March and POW camp. Upon release, he participated in resistance activities against the Japanese. For his acts of heroism during WWII, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Silver Star, and later received the U.S. Army Commendation Medal and the Joint U.S. Armed Forces Commendation Medal.

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In Memoriam From Page 15

Following WWII, Daniel Ledda was commissioned in the newly-created 12th Infantry Division (PS). He continued a 30-year Army career until retiring in 1974, after becoming the first Filipino-born American to attain the rank of full colonel. He settled in Santa Maria, California with his wife Cresenciana to whom he was married for almost 57 years until her death in 1998. Since 2005, he has lived in Sacramento with his son, Derek.

Eleuterio M. Maquinana, Golden Gate-Bay Area chapter member and retired Scout, passed away on September 6 at the age of 91. Mr. Maquinana enlisted in the Philippine Scouts in 1941 and was discharged in 1947. During WWII, he fought with Company "L", 57th Infantry (PS) and then survived the Bataan Death March and POW camp. In recent years he lived in Daly City.

He is survived by Servilla, his wife for 61 years, and sons Cesar, Rod, Manuel and Victor.

Felix Peralta, a GGBAC founding member and one-time chapter president, passed away on September 30. Felix enlisted in the Philippine Scouts in 1938 and was a squad leader with the 45th Infantry (PS) during the heavy fighting on Bataan. He survived the Death March and POW camp, where he nearly died of beriberi, dysentery and malaria. Following WWII, he completed his career with the U.S. Army.

Felix's military decorations include the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, American Defense Medal [1-star], Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal [3-stars], United Nations Service Medal [3-stars], Philippine Defense Medal [1-star], Presidential Unit Citation [3-Oak clusters], Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Mr. Peralta is survived by his wife, Lucila.

Major Prospero Q. Ringor, who served with Co. L, 57th Infantry (PS) during WWII, passed away March 12 of an aortic aneurysm.

Enlisting in the Scouts in 1941 and discharged in 1945, he then joined the Philippine Army from which he retired in 1963.

Major Ringor fought in Bataan, but was also stationed in Pangasinan. His WWII decorations include a Purple Heart, a Bronze Service Star, an American Defense Ribbon, and a Philippine Defense Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters.

He is survived by his wife Lydia and two grandchildren. His son passed away sixteen years ago. Surviving family members all live in the Philippines, where he is buried in his hometown of San Fabian, Pangasinan.

Col. Melvin Herbert Rosen was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1918, the son of Russian immigrants. He passed away on August 1 at his home in Falls Church, Virginia.

Upon graduation from West Point in 1940, Lieutenant Rosen was assigned to the 88th Field Artillery (PS) at Fort Stotsenburg, Philippines. Upon arrival he found magnificent Philippine Scout soldiers using WWI and pre WWI equipment.

Eleven days after Pearl Harbor, Mel was promoted to Captain on the first battlefield promotion list of WWII. He commanded a battery until Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942. He survived the Bataan Death March, three Hell Ships and over three years of Japanese prison camps. By 1945, Mel weighed 88 pounds. He was finally liberated from Inchon, Korea in September, 1945.

Mel retired from active duty in 1970, having been awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation

Medal and numerous other service medals. In December, 1990, the King of Norway awarded the Saint Olav Medal to both Mel and his wife, Olive. The medal is the highest given by the King to non-Norwegians.

He is survived by his wife Olive, son David (daughter-in-law Jeanette), daughter Barbara (son-in-law Dr. Gregg Powell) and four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Col. Rosen's actual funeral/burial will occur on October 18 at 11:00am at Arlington National Cemetery. His widow has designated the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society for those wishing to donate in Mel's memory. Gifts may be designated for the PSHS newsletter, library or general funds, made out to "PSHS" (with the preferred fund listed on the memo line) and mailed to Treasurer Goody Calugas, 2907 Narrows Place, Tacoma, WA 98407. Such gifts are tax deductible. To date \$950 has been received.

Norberto "Ben" Morana Zabala, Sr. died July 23 at age 98. Born in 1909 in Tolosa, Leyte, Philippines and a resident of San Francisco since 1953, Ben was very proud of his service in the 92nd Coast Artillery (PS) during WWII. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his WWII service and was a POW. Following a post-war U.S. Army career, Ben worked for Northwest Airlines in Alaska before moving to San Francisco where he worked in civil service for 35 years. He was a long-time member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter and the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

Ben was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Enrica Abando Zabala and is survived by sons Norberto Zabala Jr. and Felix Zabala; and daughters Norma Zabala, Rosario Velasquez, and Gloria Washington, as well as thirteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

To the Philippine Scouts

by 1st Lt. Henry Lee

The desperate fight is lost; the battle is done.
 The brown lean ranks are scattered to the breeze.
 Their cherished weapons rusting in the sun.
 Their moldering guidons hidden by the leaves.
 No more the men who did not fear to die
 Will plug the broken line while through the din
 Their beaten comrades raise the welcome cry,
 "Make way, make way, the Scouts are moving in!"

The jungle takes the long defended lines
 The trenches erode; the wires rust away,
 The lush dank grasses and the trailing vines
 Soon hide the human remains of the fray.
 The Battle ended and the story told
 To open to the Scouts as they unfold
 The tired little soldiers enter in.

The men who were besieged on every side
 Who knew the dissolution of retreat
 And still retained their fierce exultant pride
 And still were soldiers—even in defeat,
 Now meet the veterans of ten thousand years
 Now find a welcome worthy of their trade
 From men who fought with crossbows and with spears
 With bullet and with arrow and with spade.

The grizzled veterans of Rome built upon
 The Death-head horde of Attila the Hun
 The Yellow Horror of the greatest Khan
 The guardsmen of the First Napoleon
 All the men in every nameless fight
 Since first Man strove against Man to prove his worth
 Shall greet the tired Scouts as is their right
 No finer soldiers ever walked the Earth.

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

Written by 1st Lt. Henry Lee, 12th Military Police Company, during the Battle of Bataan. Lt. Lee was taken prisoner when Bataan fell and perished in the sinking of a Japanese "Hell Ship" Oryoko Maru transporting American POWs to Japan towards the end of WWII.

Filipino World War II Veterans Memorial

Artist/Sculptor **Cheri Gaulke** donated 50 copies to the PSHS of her book "**Valor**", which describes the Filipino World War II Veterans Memorial she created under a commission from the city of Los Angeles. The large memorial, partially funded by a USG grant, is located in Lake Street Park in historic Filipinotown.

Cheri describes the memorial as follows: "*The project memorializes the brave men of the Philippines who fought side-by-side with American soldiers during WWII, and commemorates the fight to gain recognition from the US government as war veterans in the service to the United States. Five large black granite monoliths rise from the ground and two granite benches allow viewers to sit in meditation before them. Engraved onto the face of the monoliths are photographs and text that succinctly tell the story of these veterans' many sacrifices for the United States. Included in the images is a map of the Philippines denoting significant sites. Key words are etched in English and Tagalog in the memorial.*"

The memorial pays specific homage to Philippine Scout **Sgt. Jose Calugas, Sr.**, who was awarded a Medal of Honor for his bravery in defending Bataan. The PSHS assisted Ms. Gaulke in collecting photos and information for the memorial.

The Story of the Invasion of Japan

The following article may be of particular interest to many of our readers, as Philippine Scouts, including "New Scouts" would certainly have played a role in the invasion of Japan. The story of the plans for invading Japan is published with the permission of the author and will be serialized over the next few issues of the newsletter.

By James Martin Davis

Deep in the recesses of the National Archives in Washington, D. C., hidden for over four decades, lie thousands of pages of yellowing and dusty documents. These documents, which are now declassified, still bear the stamp "Top Secret." Contained in these little examined documents are the detailed plans for "Operation Downfall," the code name for the scheduled American Invasion of Japan.

Only a few Americans in 1945, and fewer Americans today, are aware of the elaborate plans that had been prepared for the American Invasion of the Japanese home islands. Even few are aware of how close America actually came to launching that invasion and of what the Japanese had in store for us had the invasion of Japan actually been launched.

"Operation Downfall" was prepared in its final form during the spring and summer of 1945. This plan called for two massive military undertakings to be carried out in succession, and aimed at the very heart of the Japanese Empire.

In the first invasion, in what was code named "Operation Olympic," American combat troops would be landed by amphibious assault during the early morning hours of November 1, 1945, on Japan itself. After an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment, 14 combat divisions of American soldiers and marines would land on heavily fortified and defended Kyushu, the southernmost of the Japanese home islands.

On March 1, 1946, the second invasion code named "Operation Coronet," would send at least 22 more American combat divisions against one million Japanese defenders to assault the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain in a final effort to obtain the unconditional surrender of Japan.

With the exception of a part of the British Pacific Fleet, "Operation Downfall" was to be a strictly American operation. It called for the utilization of the entire United States Marine Corps, the employment of the entire United States Navy in the Pacific, and for the efforts of the 7th Air Force, the 8th Air Force recently deployed from Europe, the 20th Air Force, and for the American Far Eastern Air Force. Over 1.5 million combat soldiers, with millions more in support, would be directly involved in these two amphibious assault. A total of 4.5 million American servicemen, over 40% of all servicemen still in uniform in 1945, were to be a part of "Operation Downfall."

The invasion of Japan was to be no easy military undertaking and casualties were to be extremely heavy. Admiral William Leahy estimated that there would be over 250,000 Americans killed or wounded on Kyushu alone. General Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence estimated that American casualties from the entire operation would be one million men by the fall of 1946. General Willoughby's own Intelligence staff considered this to be a conservative estimate.

During the summer of 1945, America had little time to prepare for such a monumental endeavor, but our top military leaders were in almost unanimous agreement that such an invasion was necessary. While a naval blockade and strategic bombing of Japan was considered to be useful, general Douglas MacArthur considered a naval blockade of Japan ineffective to bring about an unconditional surrender. General George C. Marshall was of the opinion that air power over Japan as it was over Ger-

many, would not be sufficient to bring and end to the war. While most of our top military minds believed that a continued naval blockade and strategic bombing campaign would further weaken Japan, few of them believed that the blockade or the bombing would bring about her unconditional surrender. The advocates for invasion agreed that while a naval blockade chokes, it does not kill; and though strategic bombing might destroy cities, it still leaves whole armies intact. Both general Eisenhower and General Ira C. Eaker, the Deputy Commander of the Army Air Force agreed. So on May 25, 1945, the combined Chiefs of Staff, after extensive deliberation, issued to MacArthur, to Admiral Chester Nimitz, and to Army Air Force "Hap" Arnold the Top Secret directive to proceed with the invasion of Kyushu. The target date was set, for obvious reasons after the typhoon season, for November 1, 1945.

On July 25th, President Harry Truman approved the report of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, which called for the initiation of Operations "Olympic" and "Coronet." On July 26th, the United Nations issued the Potsdam Proclamation, which called upon Japan to surrender unconditionally or face "total destruction." Three days later, on July 28th, DOMEI, the Japanese Government news agency, broadcast to the world that Japan would ignore the proclamation of Potsdam and refuse to surrender.

During this same time period, the intelligence section of the Federal Communications Commission monitored internal Japanese radio broadcasts, which disclosed that Japan had closed all schools to mobilize its school children--it was arming its civilian population and forming it into national civilian defense units, and that it was turning Japan into

a nation of fortified caves and underground defenses in preparation for the expected invasion of their homeland.

"Operation Olympic," the invasion of Kyushu would come first. Its purpose was to seize and control the southern one third of that island and to establish American naval and air bases there in order to effectively intensify the bombings of Japanese industry, to tighten the naval blockade of the home islands, to destroy units of the main Japanese army, and to support "Coronet" the scheduled invasion of the Toyko Plain, that was to come the following March.

On October 27th, the preliminary invasion would begin when the 40th Infantry Division would land on a series of small islands to the west and southwest of Kyushu. At the same time, the 158th Regimental Combat Team would invade and occupy a small island 29 miles to the south of Kyushu. On these islands,

seaplane bases would be established and radar would be set up to provide advance warning for the invasion fleet, to serve as fighter direction centers for the carrier based aircraft and provide emergency anchorage for the invasion fleet, should things not go well on the day of the invasion.

As the invasion grew imminent, the massive power of the United States Navy would approach Japan. The naval forces scheduled to take part in the actual invasion consisted of two awesome fleets--the Third and the fifth.

The Third Fleet, under Admiral "Bull" Halsey, with its big guns and naval aircraft, would provide strategic support for the operation against Honshu and Hokkaido in order to impede the movement of Japanese reinforcements south to Kyushu. The Third Fleet would be composed of a powerful group of battleships, heavy cruisers, destroyers, dozens

of support ships, plus three fast carrier task groups. From these fast carriers, hundreds of Navy fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes would hit targets all over the island of Honshu.

The Fifth Fleet under Admiral Spruance would carry our invasion troops. This fleet would consist of almost 3,000 ships, including fast carriers and escort carrier task forces, a gunfire and covering force for bombardment and fire support, and a joint expeditionary force. This expeditionary force would include thousands of additional landing craft of all types and sizes. Several days before the invasion, the battleships, heavy cruisers and destroyers would pour thousands of tons of high explosives into the target areas, and they would not cease the bombardment until after the landing forces had been launched.

To be continued in our next issue.

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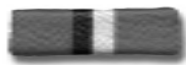
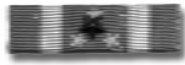
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