



From the Commander

We are often asked how the people who were held by the Japanese in the internment camps feel now about their captors 70 years after liberation. Understanding the answer to this question has been important in guiding the editorial content of this publication. Based on correspondence we have received, we observe that our readers' reactions vary from one extreme that we are too hard on the Japanese to the other that we should not in any way be conciliatory to the Japanese.

One writer has claimed that we are too much of a bristling watchdog against anything that seems to excuse what the Japanese inflicted on us. His thinking is that we should completely forgive the Japanese. After all the Japanese who held sway over the internees, with executions, beatings, torture, and starvation were only doing what they were ordered to do. And despite the predominance of bad treatment, there were some good guards who helped individual internees.

On the other extreme are the people who are completely unforgiving. They lost family members, had family businesses destroyed, and have suffered both physically and financially ever since. Their position is that the Japanese have not admitted nor paid for their crimes, and until they do so, there can be no reconciliation.

Our editorial position attempts to take the middle ground. Our first duty is to inform our readers and report accurately what really happened. If this makes us a bristling watchdog, so be it. At the same time, we recognize that the militaristic Japanese culture of the early 20th Century has completely changed and that younger generations know nothing about what Japan did to its Asian neighbors and the Allies in Asia, nor the horrendous death toll that resulted. We completely sympathize with these younger generations, who when they hear us speak, are stunned then bow and apologize for what their ancestors had done. Our antipathy is not directed at them, but at those Japanese leaders who maintain that they have no reason to apologize.

BACEPOW has worked diligently to establish a reconciliation and education program with Japan – writing to Japan's Foreign Office, the Japanese Ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. State Department proposing a program that would cost Japan nothing. None of our initiatives were acknowledged, and the Japanese Consul General in Los Angeles wrote a letter to the LA Times stating that the Peace Treaty of 1952 absolves Japan of all responsibility for its actions during WW II. It is difficult for many to completely reconcile while this attitude exists in the Japanese leadership.

It is a personal issue with each ex-prisoner whether he or she wishes to forgive and forget or to continue animosity. Our editorial policy is to avoid this controversy, but to continue to present accurate information that will help people reach their own conclusions – including the Japanese, some of whom do pay attention.

Angus Lorenzen

Liberation of Manila *Theme for the 2014 reunion*

Our reunion from April 24 through 26 was hosted by the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk Virginia and was an enormous success, attended by over 160 people and showcasing excellent speakers and topics in two days of presentations. A break at the end of the first day took us to the International Tattoo with an inspiring program of military and pipe bands, singers, dancers, and a dedication to the veterans of the Vietnam War. Each morning before the program started, authors were available in the registration area to discuss and sell books and DVDs covering wartime history and experiences in the Philippines.

The first-day program started with a tour of the MacArthur Memorial hosted by Jim Zobel and others on the staff, followed by Presentation of the Colors in the auditorium, then welcome and explanation of the program. Our first speaker was Maita Oebanda, curator of the museum at the University of Santo Tomas who described her program to interest students in the WW II experience at the University. Next were three presentations about the liberation of the camps – John Ream describing the liberation of Bilibid, Lou and Michelle Gopal showing a trailer for *Victims of Circumstance* a DVD about the Santo Tomas experience, and Howard Hart, using a sketch board, outlining the different phases of the attack and liberation of Los Baños. Bonnie Rowan, a researcher at the National Archives, showed several film clips, including Japanese propaganda, Signal Corps film taken after the liberation of Santo Tomas and a documentary on the Battle of Manila.

On the second day, we started with a panel including George Fisher and Tom Dugan from the 44th Tank Battalion and Frank Mendez of the 1st Cavalry answering questions from the audience. Next Peter Parsons and Lucky Guillermo treated us to the international premier of their documentary *Corregidor: the Road Back*. A few of the heroes who were featured in the documentary were present at the reunion. John Lukacs showed a DVD based on his book *Escape From Davao* about Bataan Death March survivor William Dyess and his companions escape from the penal colony on Mindanao to join the guerillas. When he was evacuated by submarine and returned to the U.S. in 1943, he provided the first infor-

(Liberation of Manila, Continued on page 2)

(Liberation of Manila, Continued from page 1)

mation that the Army received about the Death March, and he was told not to give any information outside of official sources. He broke protocol and talked to a reporter, which is how the American people first found out about this Japanese atrocity. Our last speaker was Lou Jurika who told about the two legendary guerillas in the Philippines, Chick Parsons and Tom Jurika, who just happened to be his father and uncle.

The evening program was a banquet at the Town Point Club, which got a bit raucous as the evening wore on. But the consensus was that this was probably the best reunion we ever had. It was a wonderful venue, the presentations were superb, and the MacArthur Memorial staff provided great facilities and kept the program rolling right on schedule.



From left, Tom Dugan, 44th Tank, Frank Mendez, 1st Cavalry, and George Fisher, 44th Tank, answered audience questions

Next Reunion

Mark your calendar, the next BACEPOW reunion will be held in Sacramento at the Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront Promenade April 24 – April 26, 2015. This is a favorite venue for people who have attended other reunions in Sacramento because we never have to leave the hotel for any of our activities. Included are a full cooked breakfast and a manager's cocktail period in the evening. For those who like to range, there are excellent nearby restaurants and other attractions.

The program is still being developed, but we already have commitments for presentations by Skip Moore, National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Jim Zobel, curator for the MacArthur Memorial, Bruce Henderson, author of *Los Baños Liberation*, Connie Hall who will speak on experiences in Manila outside of STIC, and John Lukacs, author and documentary maker who will show his latest documentary on the Battle of Manila. Saturday will be dedicated to presentations, and Sunday morning will include time for authors to discuss their books and DVDs, and for meetings of the Descendents group and the Board of Directors. A banquet will be held at noon Sunday with a keynote speaker and then a wrap-up for the reunion.

A more detailed program will be available in our January issue of *Beyond the Wire*, along with the registration form. However we advise those interested in going to make their Hotel reservation now at the special BACEPOW rate of \$149 per night. You can always cancel if your plans change.

Hotel Reservations

Internet www.sacramento.embassysuites.com and make reservation using the group/convention code: **BPW**.

Or Call (916) 326-5000 and ask for the Bay Area Civilian Ex-POW's 70th Anniversary discount rate.

Valet parking is available at a discounted rate of \$18.00 per night, or self-parking is nearby at a lower rate.

BACEPOW DESCENDENTS

As with many other organizations rooted in World War II, BACEPOW's core membership – those who were imprisoned by the Japanese – is fading as time passes. To sustain our organization, we are turning to our descendents to take an increasingly important role. To focus on this, we have appointed Cindie Leonard, a duly elected descendents member of the Board of Directors, to coordinate the descendents and encourage them to enjoy more active participation in our events. She will also be our contact with descendents of other organizations that have similar goals as ours. At the reunion in Sacramento, there will be a special descendents meeting on Sunday morning to discuss these goals and her proposed mission statement below. Even if you can't attend the reunion, please get in touch with Cindie to provide your ideas and support.

Mission Statement Draft

To honor the experience of our relatives and friends who were interned in the Philippines during WWII by providing a forum for researching and sharing their experiences and to keep their stories alive by educating the public with accurate histori-

cal information.

Please send me your ideas or revisions. We will finalize our Mission Statement during the Descendent's meeting at the reunion in April 2015.

Another goal is to connect with other descendent groups and learn what they are doing to keep their organization dynamic. Please send me any contacts or information you might have, along with your ideas and suggestions for furthering and evolving our purpose. cindieleonard@aol.com (please put BACEPOW in the Subject field.)

Liberation!

Our next issue of *Beyond the Wire* will celebrate the 70th anniversary of our liberation. We'd like to publish personal stories of liberation from all three camps. Please dig into your memory banks and dredge out an exuberant, comic, or even sad anecdote about what you saw or happened to you on that outstanding day. For you descendents, swab down your parents, grandparents or great grandparents for a great story and send it in. You can send it to either Sascha or Angus using the e-mail address on the masthead of this issue.

The Story of the Mortons

by Sascha Jansen

Our family came into Manila the day after Christmas 1941, from our sugar plantation, for safety as the Japs began strafing our property daily. Many Americans from the provinces and outer islands followed suit, filling up the Manila and Bay View Hotels to wait for the enemy's entry into Manila.

This is when we first met a lovely young mother with her baby, whose husband had joined the US Navy and gone to his post. As the days went by we got to know Alice Morton and her baby, Ritchie. We felt sorry for young mothers who were without their husbands for support; but the sad thing about Ritchie was that he was born a hydrocephalic baby (water on the brain). He was always in distress and cried constantly all day. Various mothers and grandmothers would spell Alice during the day so she could tend to personal business and rest awhile. It seemed that Ritchie never slept.

Over the next few months, women with small babies were held at a private home, then at the Assumption Convent before going to camp. My mom, my siblings and I were in that group. Ritchie's condition never changed, and the mothers continued helping Alice with her precious baby, who never stopped crying.

After we all were in camp for some time, Alice finally got word that her husband, Harry, had been killed in the summer of 1942. In 1944, Ritchie became worse and finally joined his father in rest.

In the 50's we heard that Alice had married our very good friend from Manila, Frank Hill. We rejoiced when they visited us in California and were happy to help them find a house to buy - just across the street.

Many years later, about 3 years ago, I was having a chat with Assistant Superintendent Burt Caloud of the US Military Cemetery in Manila. He brought up a problem he was having in identifying a head stone with names carved on both sides. He assured me that this was a unique situation, as the various U.S. Battle Monuments Cemeteries around the world did not have such a head stone. He was looking for an answer, thinking perhaps that these two shared names were brothers - but why was one without military rank? Burt then sent these pictures to share with me.

As you can see, Burt may now put his long quest for meaning to rest. And now, the Lt. JG Naval hero, and his very young son, Ritchie, may lay side by side for all times. This is a beautiful war story ending for a father and son.

PS - When Alice returned to Manila in the 1950s, it was to re-inter Ritchie from his original burial spot during the war, to be together with his father at the American Cemetery. This is how it happened.



We Knew You When

Alice Collier

On February 3, 2014, ninety four year old Alice Collier died peacefully in her sleep in Menlo Park, California. Born and raised in Manila, Philippines, she was interned with her family as a POW during WWII in the Santo Tomas and Los Banos POW camps.

She met her future husband, Len Collier just prior to the outbreak of war, and they spent nearly four years loving and caring for each other in camp. After their liberation in 1945, they sailed to San Francisco and were married. The Colliers raised four children and made their homes in Boston, New York, Caracas as well as the Bay Area.

A lover of life, Alice was an avid golfer, bridge player, world traveler and theater and opera lover. She was generous with her friends and loved a good time. Having survived great hardships during her internment, she had a deep commitment to helping others, and volunteered with the Family Service Agency, the Junior League and other service organizations. Alice is survived by her sister, Wanda Damberg, children and grandchildren. She is predeceased by Len, her husband of 61 years



January 30 - February 11th – 2015

Join us in the Philippines for the 70th Anniversary of the WWII Liberation Reunion in Manila. What a milestone to be returning after 70 years. We will be meeting old friends and honoring our fallen friends and military heroes. Also on the agenda are visiting familiar territories, sharing memories, and visiting old home and school sights .

January/February 2015 Manila Itinerary (land only)

- Jan 30 - Late evening departure from SFO or LAX with Philippine Airlines - Lose a day in flight.
- Feb 1 - Arrive Ninoy Aquino International Airport Early morning - Transfer to Manila Hotel -Enjoy Free Day - No Host Cocktail Reception 6:30pm – Welcome Banquet 7:30pm @ Mabuhay Palace - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 2 - Breakfast – Whole day Corregidor Tour with Lunch - Dinner on your own - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 3 - Breakfast – Whole day Special Program at Santo Tomas with lunch - Dinner on own - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 4 - Breakfast – Whole Day Manila City Tour and Intramuros with Lunch - Dinner on your own - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 5 - Breakfast – Whole Day Villa Escudero Tour with Lunch - Dinner on your own - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 6 - Breakfast - Free Day
- Feb 7 - Breakfast - Makati City Tour - Nielson Tower - Ayala Museum – Lunch and Dinner on your own - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 8 - Breakfast – Whole day Bus Hire – (this day left open for ceremonies) - Overnight Manila Hotel.
- Feb 9 - Breakfast – Taal Town Tour with Lunch – Dinner on your own - Overnight Taal Vista Hotel.
- Feb 10 - Breakfast – Tagaytay Tour with Lunch – Farewell BBQ Dinner at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza - outdoors-poolside - Overnight Sofitel.
- Feb 11 - Breakfast – Bus for shopping – Transport to Airport - Evening Departure on Philippine Airlines - Arrive SFO or LAX in the early evening of Feb. 11. You gain a day returning.

Rates are per person (based on a minimum of 25 people) and include:

LAND TOUR - Triple occupancy - \$1,173.00, Twin occupancy - \$1,219.00 , Single occupancy - \$1,770.00. All Hotel Accommodations (10 nights) with Daily Breakfast (Except for breakfast on Feb 1), Roundtrip Airport Transfers in Manila/Meet & Greet Assistance. All Tours Mentioned in Itinerary - All Lunches mentioned with Tours - Welcome and Farewell Dinners - Air Conditioned Buses with English Speaking Driver and Guides, Taxes and Service Charges. \$200 deposit required at time of reservation.

AIRFARE - Round Trip (All Taxes Included) - Economy - \$1,380, Business Class - \$2,960. Airfares are subject to change, and PAL may lower prices as the trip draws near. A deposit of \$200 is required when you make your reservations, which holds your blocked seats and will be included in your total payment. You may depart from SFO or LAX, so make your preference known when you make your reservation. Living outside of the United States? We will book your AIR FARE accordingly.

Non-refundable deposit of \$200 each is required for the Land Tour and the Airfare (\$400 total). Balance is due by Dec. 5

For reservations, please contact: Rajah Tours International - Esther Briones: ebriones@rajahtours.com – (415) 397-0303 - 391 Sutter St. #801 San Francisco, CA 94108. Please provide the information shown on the form below.

For all other trip information contact: Sascha Jansen – Tour Director - mabuhayma@aol.com - (707) 448-2909 – 213 Grand Canyon Dr., Vacaville, CA 95687.

UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR DEPOSIT, I WILL BE SENDING YOU MORE TRIP INFORMATION – ALOHA, SASCHA

Philippine Trip – January 30 to February 11, 2015

Full Name
(Name as appears on your Passport)

Address.....

Telephone Numbers.....

E-mails:.....

Passport Number and Expiration Date.....
(Passports need to be valid for 6 months upon leaving the Philippines.)

Names of Two Emergency Contact Persons, including Addresses and E-mails.

First.....

Second.....

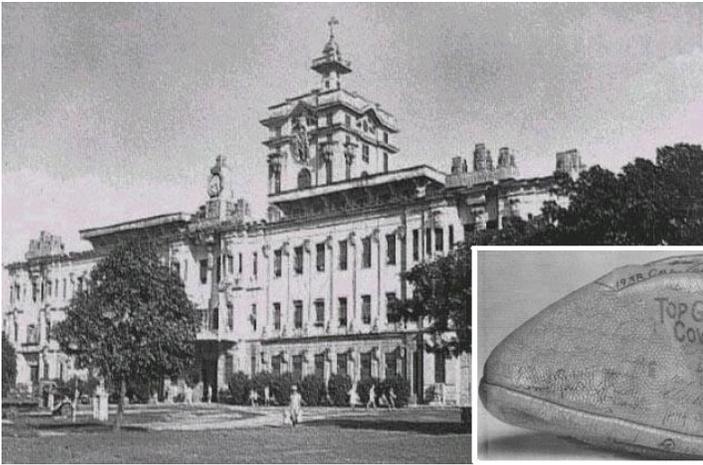
Make Deposit Check Out to Rajah Tours. Mail this information with your deposits (\$400 per person for tour and airfare) to: Rajah Tours International - 391 Sutter Street # 801, San Francisco, CA 94108 – Attention E. Briones

Questions? Call: 415-397-0303 or e-mail ebriones@rajahtours.com

When deposits are received more trip information will be forthcoming. Thank you.

Rose Bowl Goes To War

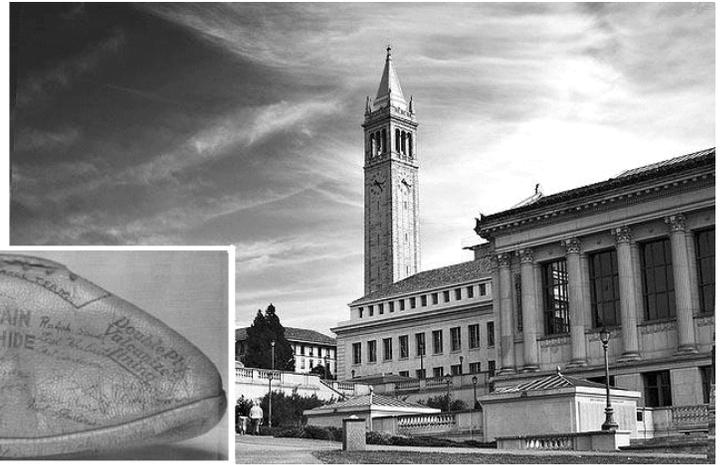
By Angus Lorenzen



University of Santo Tomas, Manila



1938 Rose Bowl game ball



University of California, Berkeley

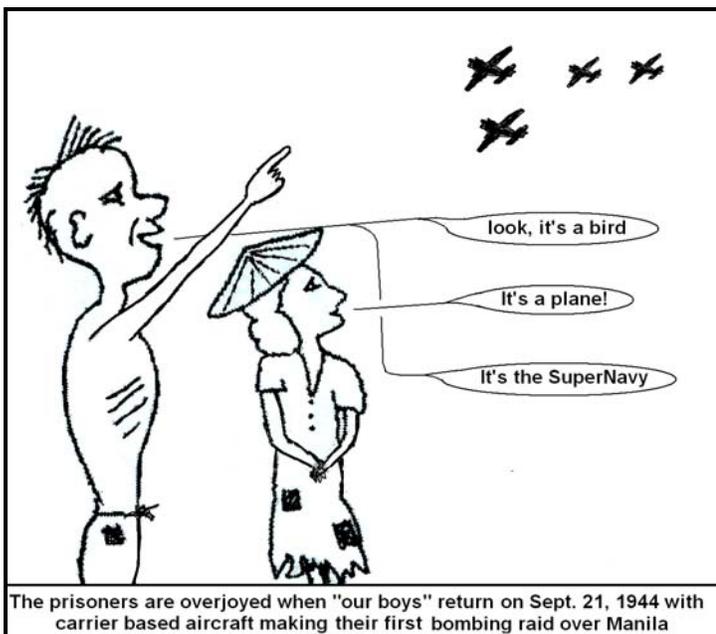
In the 1930s the University of California was one of the powerhouses of Pacific Coast Conference football, winning the Rose Bowl for the last time in 1938. More recently, Cal emphasized producing Nobel Laureates and student dissidents, and a good football season is when the team beats its archrival across the bay at the Leland Stanford, Junior farm. A classic Big Game occurred in 1982 when Stanford scored a field goal and took the lead, and with only 4 seconds remaining kicked off to the Cal team. As Cal started to run the ball back, the ever-unruly Stanford band marched onto the field in anticipation of victory. The Cal players threw 5 laterals and ran through the band members, using them as interference, to score the winning touchdown and depriving the legendary John Elway from notching another victory.

In the earlier glorious Rose Bowl victory, the team members signed the ball, and it was presented to a boy named Bill Phillips on his 13th birthday by his uncle who played on both the offensive and defensive lines. When young Bill's family moved to Manila a few months later, he took this prized possession with him.

The Japanese marched into Manila on January 2, 1942, and soon started rounding up enemy alien civilians and putting them in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, Bill and his family among them. Bill included his prized ball along with the few possessions internees were allowed to carry with them, and secreted it beneath his bunk for the duration of his internment. It is a wonder that someone didn't come up with the idea of roasting that pigskin for Christmas dinner in 1944 when everyone was starving.

But Bill and the ball survived, the ball losing only its lacing when Bill needed one for his shoes. Back in the States, Bill got on with his education, eventually earning an education doctorate from Cal in 1962. In 2005 he discovered the game ball in a box in his basement, and decided to donate it to Cal. The ball was misplaced and only recently discovered thanks to the renovation of Memorial Stadium.

The ball will receive a permanent place of honor at Cal, fortunate that it wasn't turned into crackling to satisfy the starving almost 70 years ago. But then, clearly stamped on it are the words, "Top Grain Cowhide", so it may have been a bit tough, like the players who used it so many years ago and its owner who nurtured it through 3 years of prison camp.



BACEPOW Establishing East Coast Branch

Because BACEPOW was established in the Bay Area many years ago, most of our reunions and luncheons have been held in California. Our membership has grown since those early days and now includes people from all over the nation. This puts many members in a position of having to travel great distances to participate in our gatherings.

Thanks to STIC ex-POW Chris Larsen, we will now have a focal point on the East Coast. He is establishing a branch that will be centered at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA and plans to hold meetings there and other locations in the East.

If you are interested in participating or helping to organize meetings, please contact Chris Larsen by e-mail at:

calarsenjr@aol.com

or by mail at:

1609 Pinecrest Road, Rocky Mount, NC 27803

Japanese Broadcast Official: “We Didn’t Commit War Crimes, the U.S. Just Made That Up”

In an article by Kirk Spitzer on February 7, 2014 published on Follow@TIMEWorld, he reported that the U.S. embassy in Tokyo has strongly condemned charges by a top official at Japan’s national public broadcaster that Americans fabricated war crimes against Japanese leaders during World War II in order to cover up American atrocities. The charges were made by Naoki Hyakuta, a nationalist writer and close friend of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was recently appointed to the board of governors of the Japan Broadcasting Corp., commonly known as NHK.

Hyakuta also claimed that the infamous Nanjing Massacre in 1937 never occurred, and that Americans staged the post-war trials of Japanese leaders to cover up U.S. war crimes. He said those crimes included the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the mass firebombings of Tokyo. The staunchly conservative Abe himself caused diplomatic outrage in December, when he paid his respects at Tokyo’s Yasukuni Shrine — a memorial to the Japanese war dead including 14 high-ranking war criminals. Beijing, Seoul and Washington strongly condemned the visit.

The appointment of such staunch nationalists to NHK’s board is part of a concerted campaign by the Abe administration to recast Japan as the true victim of World War II and put a more benign face on the country’s often brutal colonial practices, says Jeff Kingston, professor of Asian studies at Temple University’s Tokyo campus. “These are Abe’s cronies, they agree with his revisionist views, and now he’s putting them in positions of power and influence,” says Kingston. “What they don’t realize is that the right-wing revisionists are not convincing many people in Japan, and they are not convincing people outside Japan. What they are doing is creating a huge diplomatic problem.”

Members of the opposition have called for the appointees to be replaced, but an Abe spokesman said all had been speaking in their capacities as private citizens and had not violated government policy. NHK is Japan’s largest television network, funded largely by viewer license fees. It produces round-the-

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clock entertainment and public-interest programming and operates news bureaus around the world.

NHK also produced the film “Remembering the Battle of Manila” which is a blatant piece of propaganda blaming the U.S. for the destruction of Manila and the resulting Manila Massacre, which we have reported previously.

BACEPOW Newsletter
15 Diamonte Lane
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275