



Congratulations University of Santo Tomas on your 400 years

From the Commander

The number of people with first-hand knowledge of WW II is diminishing rapidly as the GIs who fought in the battles and the POWs who suffered in captivity decline. We now see a new breed of authors writing books about their fictional personal experiences. Also, there is a new breed of academics intent on re-writing the history of the war to reflect a bias that casts us as the aggressors rather than the victims.

We can start with the Japanese. There is a documentary made for the History Channel by NHK called *Remembering the Battle of Manila* which blames the United States for the destruction. It asserts that the battle would never have occurred if American forces hadn't surrounded the city, preventing the Japanese troops from evacuating it, and that the killing of Filipinos was only required to prevent guerilla infiltration (80,000 murdered including women and children).

The December 23, 2010 issue of *Shukan Shincho*, the second largest weekly magazine in Japan, made a scurrilous attack on Bataan Death March survivor Lester Tenney, presenting outrageous lies about the Japanese treatment of American POWs. It claims that the Death March was far less rigorous than described, and was the Americans fault for destroying their own vehicles, which could have been used to transport them. And then it states that the tortures are strictly American fabrications.

The Japanese are not educated about their World War II history, and are susceptible to this kind of propaganda. But when the U.S. government gets into the act with the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsoring a workshop for college professors last July at the East-West Center, University of Hawaii, titled *History and Commemoration: The Legacies of the Pacific War*, we have to wonder what is going on. The scholarly presentations included such subjects as:

- **The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor should be seen from the perspective of Japan being a victim of western oppression.**
- **The U.S. military and its veterans constitute an imperialistic, oppressive force.**
- **War memorials, such as the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery are symbols of military aggression and brutality.**
- **Conservatives and veterans in the U.S. have had an undue and corrupt influence on how WWII is remembered.**
- **Veterans' memories of their own experiences in the war are suspect and influenced by their own self-delusion.**

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The University of Santo Tomas was founded in Manila on April 26, 1611 by the Dominican order in the Intramuros, and the first class was admitted in 1619 when Pope Paul V empowered it to confer degrees. A new campus on 65 acres of land in north Manila was completed in 1927.

The University has operated continuously since the admission of its first class of 12 students until now with an enrollment of over 30,000 students, except for the period of World War II when the campus was used as an internment camp for "enemy alien civilians".

The Japanese entered Manila on January 2, 1942, and the first prisoners were trucked into Santo Tomas on January 4. About 6,000 civilian prisoners were held in Santo Tomas, though the total population seldom exceeded 4,000 at any time as they were transferred to other camps and prisons. Units of the 1st Cavalry liberated the camp on February 3, 1945, and repatriation of prisoners started on February 12 while the Battle of Manila still raged. The last prisoners left the camp on July 14, 1945, ending a saga.

Though overcrowded and living under conditions never intended for a permanent population, those who were held in Santo Tomas are ever grateful to the University and Dominican fathers for their efforts to make life bearable and to smuggle in desperately needed medical supplies.

Today the impact of the University is felt throughout the United States as many of its graduates with degrees in the medical sciences populate our medical facilities.

We wish you many more hundreds of years of success.



The campus in 1945 was packed with nipa shanties built by POWs to relieve the overcrowding in the permanent buildings.

Pan Am Clipper Ship -Pacific Inaugural Flights

75th Anniversary

Sascha Jansen's grandfather was aboard the Pan American clipper on its inaugural flight from San Francisco to Manila in 1936, and she was invited to attend the stunning 75th anniversary ceremony.

We arrived at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, on the evening of November 20, 2010, in anticipation of a glamorous and historical evening. In honor of the First Pan American Airways Clipper Flight across the Pacific to Manila in 1935, the Pan Am Historical Foundation was celebrating the event's 75th year in the style of old Hollywood glam from the 30s. The guest lists included family of aviation pioneers Martin, Sikorsky, Tripp and Lindbergh. The extraordinary event of open bars, exquisite cuisine, former Pan Am employees mingling with old friends, and the grand style of movers of that era did not disappoint. It was a peek into the familiar past.

The Clipper's Headquarter in those early days was on Treasure Island, and was where the anniversary celebration was held. Here, the departure of the First Clipper, a Martin - M 130, took off in grand style, clearing the unfinished Golden Gate Bridge with ease. In November of 1935, the first mail flight across the Pacific to Manila became a reality, heralding one of the most important events in the annals of aviation.

The first passenger flight was the following year in October of 1936, and because our family was living in the Philippines during the 20's and 30's, we were all at the Cavite Naval Base to welcome it and my grandfather, Louis Weinzheimer, who was among the inaugural passengers. The passenger list was blue-ribbon, with such names as Thomas Fortune Ryan, III - Capitalist, Clara Adams - First Flighter, Wilber May - CEO of The May Company Dept. Store, Bartlett, head of a super market chain, Zeta Averill - World Traveler.

Captain Edwin Musick, who made history in the Clipper's early days of Pacific crossings, was at the helm on the 1935 and 1936 flights. Navigator, Fred Noonan, himself an iconic historical figure, gained prominence on these early flights as a brilliant navigator. He was Amelia Earhart's Navigator and disappeared along with the aviatrix the following year. The crew was hand picked as the best to traverse the Pacific in 6 days - total flying time 59 hours, 45 minutes, from San Francisco - Honolulu - Midway - Wake - Guam - Manila.

ECHOING THE PAST

Doug Willard In 1935, a young man was just hired by Pan Am Airways for a plum job in the Traffic Department on Treasure Island, handling Clipper Flights to the Orient. Doug Willard, one of the founders of BACEPOW who was interned in Santo Tomas, is still an avid Clipper fan. "It really was a terrific, exciting job for a kid like me. After all, this was the beginning of a new era in air travel. I was hired by Jack Harchow, head of Personnel, who later on promoted me to Reservation Control for \$125 bucks a month," said Willard. "Then, three years later, I was transferred to Manila. They sent me by Matson Lines to Honolulu, and from there I flew on the China Clipper. What an experience that was."

After manning the Clipper office off the lobby of the Manila Hotel for three years, WWII started, putting the company on hold until after the war. "It was a good thing there wasn't a single Clipper in Manila on December 8, 1941," continued Doug. "There wouldn't have been anything left of the

plane when the Japanese bombed Manila."



Captain Edwin Musick During his First Pacific Flight stop on the way to Manila, Captain Musick reported, "The China Clipper is within 300 miles off Honolulu. It is warmer now, and clouds are forming so that the sea is now invisible. A dark mass is seen beyond the rim of the clouds. We see a mantle of smoke from the volcanic eruptions. All hands manned their posts as we slowly passed Diamond Head and glided down to the patrolled channel on Pearl Harbor, landing at 10:19". (Sadly, Captain Musick, passengers and crew died in 1938 on impact with the Clipper off the coast of Pago Pago.)

Rush Clark: Manila Airport Manager "We had one Clipper in Hong Kong at the time of the Jap bombing in Manila. In order to play it safe, it was to come back to base in Manila. It didn't have a chance to leave Hong Kong as it was bombed heavily as it floated at buoy in the harbor."

Capt. Edwin (Ned) Avary "I was at Crissy Field in San Francisco, with my little Boeing P-26, when that Clipper first came over heading out to sea. I looked at it and shivered. I said, 'I've got to go with that airline. They've scheduled a whole ocean!' I signed up the next day, and two years later I was on. I had 28,000 hours altogether, 32 years, three years in flying boats. Many times we were the only planes in the whole Pacific. We only had one day off in Manila before heading to Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore. Romance? It was all there! It was grand!"

Yes, Romance, with a capital R, went with the China Clippers. Rakish pilots with thin moustaches and crushed hats, natty gents with Roman numeral surnames, and jaunty women in flimsy cottons sought adventure in far away places. They had style. They had panache. It was all there.

Annual Meeting

The 2011 annual meeting was held at the Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento at the end of February and was attended by about 80 people. The members were informed about the activities in which BACEPOW is involved and the important new initiative being taken by the descendants group.

The descendants group had a separate meeting chaired by Suzie Reynolds to discuss initiating a project. Their plan is to develop an archive of memorabilia about the people who were in the camps. This will include pictures, writings, and other artifacts that could be lost if they aren't collected now. Anyone with something of interest to share should contact Suzie and arrange how it can be transferred to the archive.

Election of officers was held, and the following people will serve during 2011.

Commander – Angus Lorenzen bacepow@earthlink.net
Sr. Vice Commander - Sascha Jansen mabuhayma@aol.com
Vice Commander - John Ream reamo@comcast.net
Adjutant - Suzie Reynolds gsreynolds@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer - Sally Connelly sconnc@aol.com
Membership Chair - Ric Laurence riclaurence@comcast.net
Descendents Member - Irene Guittard iguittard@golygon.com
Descendents Member - Denise Paige dtpaige@hotmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

The May Luncheon will not be held this year.

Saturday, August 2011 - Luncheon get-together in Long Beach for members and friends in Southern California. Time and place to be announced. Contact bacepow@earthlink.net

Saturday, October 22, 2011 - Luncheon get together and Board of Directors meeting at the Elks Club in Alameda. 11:30 reception and 12:30 Lunch. Speaker to be announced.

April 1 to April 12, 2012 - Philippine Tour led by Sascha Jansen. The tour will include visits to Bataan and various POW camps including those where civilians were held. These tours are always interesting from an historical perspective as well as providing the opportunity for discussions with those who were there. Contact Sascha Jansen at mabuhayma@aol.com or (530) 795-0411.

April 27, 28, & 29 2012 Reunion - The reunion will be held over this weekend at the Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento. The tentative program is as follows:

Friday 4:00 Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 Reception hosted by Embassy Suites

Saturday 9:00 Affinity group and descendants get-togethers
10:00-12:00 Presentations
12:00 - 1:30 Lunch
1:30 - 4:30 Presentations
6:00 Reception Hosted by Embassy Suites

Sunday 9:00 Affinity group and descendants get-togethers
10:00 Book Signings
11:00 No Host Reception

For Arts Sake

“What am I going to do with a picture of this carabao?”

Most of us from the Philippines and other Asian Countries grew up loving paintings and objects of art specific to these cultures and artists. My family and their friends, commissioned art, had Spanish carved furniture made to order, and collected Asian antiquities. Today, quite a few of us are the beneficiaries of these treasures, and some in the younger generations don't realize their intrinsic value.

The reputation of Filipino artists has risen over the years, now commanding high prices, and their paintings are most prized in the art world today. Over the years I have learned a lot about these artists as I have returned to the Philippines on my many trips. Works of Amorsolo, Luna, Magsaysay Ho, Hidalgo and others are the artists unique to the Philippines.

The question you may want to ask yourself is this, “What shall I do with these paintings - donate to a Museum, leave it to family, or shall I sell it to a collector?”

Over the years, Amorsolo and other rare Filipino paintings have been found in trash heaps, garage sales, or bought at a Goodwill store for a few bucks. We tend to want to keep these in the family; but the next generations don't have our interests and may dispose of them in a way resulting in a lost piece of history from the art world.

Knowing this, my brother and I realized that by selling our Magsaysay Ho painting to a collector, we could feel comfortable in knowing that our family treasure will be in good loving hands in a safe environment, while we enjoy a goodly sum of money. We sold the painting last summer and had no idea it would fetch as much as it did. Happy Days! The choice we made for a gallery was Geringer Art, and a tremendous bonus as he paid more than other collectors in his field. I recommend this dealer, who can be reached at www.geringerart.com, or contacted at geringerart@hotmail.com.

Others feel more of a need to donate their paintings to a museum, which is also encouraged. Here again, the painting will be in a controlled environment and will last centuries. The main point is to think about the alternatives to save the art that our families left us to cherish and keep in good condition. I would hate to hear your great grandchild say one day, “*What am I going to do with a picture of this carabao?*”

Please contact me if you would like more information on my sales transaction and on the sources I have on hand. Sascha Jansen, Mabuhayma@aol.com, (530) 795-0411

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The US government, sponsoring academics to cast Americans as the aggressors in World War II, funded this conference. There is only one way to fight this corrosive history and that is to document our own experiences and to broadcast them. That is the purpose of this newsletter, and we encourage anyone who has a story to tell to offer it for us to publish. Please send your stories to one of the editors shown in our masthead.

Furthermore, we should make our anger at this “progressive” reinterpretation of history known to our Congressmen and Senators. Eliminating funding of the National Endowment for the Humanities would be beneficial.

Angus Lorenzen

A Philippine Odyssey Continues

In the January issue, Louis Jurika told the story of how his father, Major Thomas Walker Jurika, escaped from the Philippines on the submarine Narwhal in 1944 and joined General MacArthur's staff to support the guerrilla movement in the islands, until assigned to help liberate and administer Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Arriving with emergency supplies at dawn February 4, 1945, from Santo Tomas he commenced a search for his mother Blanche, who he hadn't seen since late 1941.

Looking for her at Santo Tomas and then Bilibid, and working with G-2 (Army Intelligence), he stayed closely behind advancing American troops. During the devastating battle that leveled old Manila he often found himself in no-man's-land looking for Blanche, but no one had a clue after her detention by the Kempetai secret police a year earlier.

Between February 19 and 21, while the Battle of Manila continued around them, Major Jurika directed a group that discovered the grave of the four Santo Tomas internees – Grinnell, Duggleby, Johnson and Larsen. (They were members of the Santo Tomas Executive Committee who were accused of various offenses by the Japanese and removed from the camp on January 5, 1945, except the Japanese made an error and arrested the wrong Larson.) Altogether, they dug up 14 bodies bound together in small groups, decomposed, but identified by teeth and personal effects. All had been beheaded, probably around January 15th. Tom was increasingly pessimistic that he would find Blanche alive.

Continuing the search, Tom joined a column of army units going to a rendezvous at the edge of Laguna de Bay, the large inland lake east of Manila. On the far shore of the lake was the town of Los Baños where 2,136 allied civilians were imprisoned on the grounds of an agricultural college. At dawn on February 23, a low-level paratroop drop from C-47's, accompanied by guerrillas emerging from the jungle and a flotilla of amphibious tractors crossing the lake, took the Japanese by complete surprise, liberating the internees. The raid was a stunning success with few casualties on the American side. Tom arrived at Los Baños in an amtrac and found his brother-in-law Bob Cecil and many old friends, but no Blanche. Bob was badly underweight and glad to be alive, but he hadn't seen Blanche since his internment in early 1942.

Tom was now quartered in the Port Area, assisting with opening the port after Corregidor had been seized and Manila Bay swept of mines. After that he started assembling materiel for the final invasion of Japan itself, while still taking every opportunity to pursue leads on Blanche. By summer, with most Santo Tomas internees having returned to their respective countries, the fighting was still going on in the mountains north of Manila. There was a rumor that someone had seen Blanche in Baguio; another rumor was that she had been taken to Japan in 1944.

Then came the day of the lucky break when, after the Japanese surrender in August, Tom was busy assisting G-2 with investigations in a Port Area building. Walking down a hallway lined with offices full of clacking typewriters and cigarette smoke, he passed an open doorway as the noise level dropped momentarily and heard the name "Jurika". It was an amazing happenstance. If he hadn't been there at that very moment, the ensuing story could not be told.

Tom spun around, walked through the door and in a raised voice asked, "Who said Jurika'?" Everyone in the room looked up as two officers behind a desk pointed at the young

Japanese prisoner seated in front of them. The lucky break quickly turned into heart-break as testimony spilled from the prisoner, who had been a witness to it all.

Blanche was dead, executed in late August, 1944, hands tied behind her, blindfolded and kneeling over a newly-dug trench somewhere in Manila's North Cemetery, killed with over two dozen other civilians accused of various acts of conspiracy by the Japanese. For Blanche and the few other American women, death was by beheading by Samurai sword. For the men, it had been a single shot to the back of the head.

G-2 released the prisoner into Tom's custody to guide a search team to the grave. The families related to those executed were alerted. One of the five Elizalde brothers was on the list, and their company sent Tom a truck and team of workers with shovels for the unpleasant task ahead.

It turned out that Tom's Japanese eyewitness spoke fluent English and was not completely what he appeared to be. Richard Sakakida was in fact a young bilingual Nisei from Maui, Hawaii, who had arrived in Manila in 1941 as a sergeant in the US Corps of Intelligence Police. Moving into a residence hotel owned by a Japanese national and patronized by local and visiting Japanese businessmen, in civilian clothes and with a cover job as a store clerk, Sakakida's mission was to network the Japanese community to collect intelligence. He was so successful gaining the confidence of the Japanese that he was offered a job at the Japanese Consulate in Davao just prior to the war's outbreak.

When the war started, Sakakida was picked up by his army handlers and taken to Bataan where, back in uniform, he translated Japanese radio intercepts until Bataan fell. Then the Japanese took him back to Manila, where his story of being a civilian pressed into service by the Americans was plausible enough to win him a job as a bilingual aide to the Japanese army commandant. For the next three years, he did what it took to stay alive while working for the Japanese. Assigned to attend trials of suspected subversives, as well as their executions, he served as a translator, privy to all files and talk at army headquarters.

One of the trials he attended was Blanche's. She had



Blanche Walker Jurika

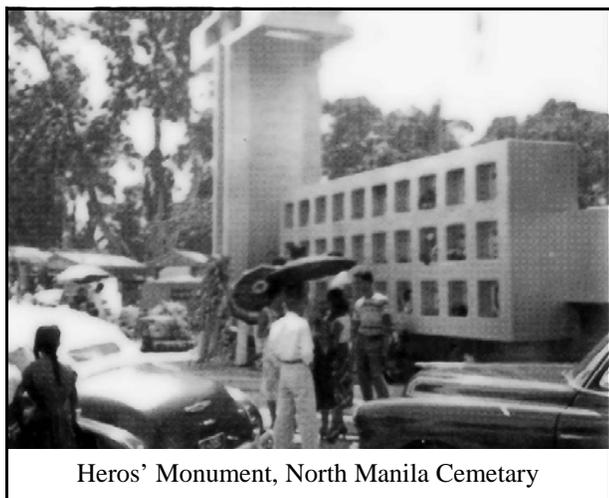
been able to stay out of Santo Tomas because of a medical dispensation, the result of a mastectomy just prior to the war, but she was suspected of being in league with an underground group that operated loosely in Manila.

In 1943, Blanche was a volunteer assisting doctors and nurses at Welfareville and at Emmanuel Hospital, and at times she was also living with nuns in a Manila convent. This was the cover for her efforts to raise funds that were channeled to the guerrillas outside Manila. Through the guerrilla news network, the “bamboo telegraph”, Tom in Mindanao had occasionally learned of Blanche’s location in Manila. Then a Filipino double agent named Franco Vera Reyes infiltrated the group and betrayed her and other well-known citizens. Dozens were taken to Fort Santiago by the Kempetai starting in February 1944.

G-2 found Sakakida to be a suspicious subject of inquiry, questioning exactly where he had been during the Occupation, as there were a few holes in his story. Now he was with Tom searching an open field on the fringe of North Cemetery. For two days the laborers had dug in spots pointed out by Sakakida as the execution site, but his memory was proving elusive. At sundown the large field was pockmarked with a dozen excavations, and Tom had come to the conclusion that Sakakida didn’t really want to find the grave. No bodies, no case, end of inquiry!

Finally Tom snapped. Grabbing Sakakida by the neck, Tom whipped out his .45 pistol and pressed the barrel to Sakakida’s head, screaming “You son-of-a-bitch, the next hole better be the right one or you’re going in it”. The very next hole was indeed the right one. Over two dozen decomposed bodies were unearthed, all eventually identified by dental records or personal effects and clothing. Blanche was one of them.

It was finally over. Tom had seen enough for a lifetime and nightmares would plague him for years. A suitable memorial was erected for these civilian martyrs, 29 of whom were laid to rest in a Heroes Monument in North Cemetery. In a wall of individual crypts, they were interred in order of age, oldest to the youngest, left to right, top to bottom in three rows. Blanche, as the eldest, was accorded the first space in the top left-hand corner. She lies there today. All 29 crypts bear the same date of death, and every August 30th, locals say that during the night an unknown angel arrives to place a burning candle by each name.



Heros' Monument, North Manila Cemetery

WE KNEW YOU WHEN

GRACE C. NASH – Grace, who was the First Violinist for the Manila Symphony, an internationally known educator, and established author of 20 books that use music, language and movement to foster child-development.

Grace followed Ralph Nash, an American engineer, to the Philippines in 1936. With their two sons, Ralph and Grace spent the war years in Santo Tomas and Los Baños prison camps. As one of the first pregnant women in Santo Tomas, the Commandant demanded they pay for their “sin” by banishing Grace to an island in the middle of the Pasig River, Hospicio de San Jose, housing prostitutes and old Spanish/American War Veterans. Ralph was sent to a private jail cell until the birth of their baby. Their story of the war years is depicted in her book, *That We May Live*. Grace died a few months ago in 2010 in the middle of her 9th decade.

MARGARET COALSON SAMS – Jessie Margaret Coalson Sams was born in Oklahoma on February 4, 1916. Always intrigued by adventure in far away places, Margaret fell in love with Bob Sherk, a mining engineer in the gold country of the Philippines, and readily joined this unique life in a far-away land. Upon the start of WWII, Bob joined the US military and subsequently died in battle. Margaret and her son were sent to Santo Tomas, then to Los Baños prison camp. She met fellow prisoner, Jerry Sams, where their baby was born in captivity.

Known to be an extraordinary hostess and cook, with a love of gardening, her book, *Forbidden Family*, was published in 1989. She and her family lived in Chicago Park, California. Her husband, Jerry, preceded her in death.

FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES - Born in 1901, Frank was the last standing WWI Veteran in the United States. He celebrated his 110th birthday on February 1, 2011 and passed away in his sleep on February 27th.

Besides his service in WWI, Frank was also in Santo Tomas and Los Baños in the Philippines, as a civilian prisoner of the Japanese in WWII. The rest of his life was spent learning 5 languages, and he was an avid reader and collector of books and art. His life long interest was his passion for history and promoting this subject to younger generations. Before his death Frank was heavily involved in overseeing the completion of a monument to WWI Veterans, and partnered with his personal biographer filming a documentary of his life. His quiet strength, philosophy of life, and great fortitude will live on with his many fans and friends. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

ROGER MANSELL – October 8, 1935 – October 25, 2010
The founder of **Center for Research - Allied POWs Under the Japanese**, Roger’s chief goal was to compile a data base of more than 100,000 records to document what happened to every Allied soldier captured by the Japanese forces during WWII. This project eventually spilled into the civilian prisoner experience of the colonial countries in Asia, the Pacific, and the Far East. His vast collection of POW history has been donated to the **Hoover Institution Library and Archives**. The **Roger Mansell Collection** is a valuable resource for those interested in studying the roles of prisoners of war during that conflict. His mantra: “*Tell your story – write it down – preserve history.*”

