



## From the Commander

Several years ago, BACEPOW initiated a program to educate young Filipinos about WW II and the events that affected the Philippines so drastically. We attempted to set up a program where we asked high school and college students to submit an essay about an event that occurred during the war, and the 5 top essays would receive monetary awards. We tried to partner with the University of Santo Tomas in this endeavor because of our history as prisoners on the campus. Unfortunately, the history professors at the University gave the project lip service but made no attempt to implement our plans.

Without a sponsor in the Philippines, it will be unreasonably difficult to implement the BACEPOW History award. But then riding to our rescue came the California State Legislature, which passed AB 199 that establishes a non-mandatory requirement that high schools teach a unit of history in 11<sup>th</sup> grade about WW II in the Pacific and to include the invasion of the Philippine Islands in 1941, the Bataan Death March, the atrocities, and other features and battles of the war.

Recently, the Bataan Legacy Historical Society sponsored a petition on Change.Org and is developing curriculum material in anticipation of the full implementation of the program. Also, last October a number of members of BACEPOW joined members of the Bataan Legacy Society, Memorae Manila 1945, the Philippine Consulate General, and the San Francisco Public Library in celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW II with the goal of including these important historical facts in the California social sciences curriculum for grades 7-12. This is covered in an article by Sascha Jansen later in this edition.

It now appears that an educational opportunity is opening right here, and we can put our emphasis on providing historical education about WW II in the Pacific and specifically the Philippines in our own school system. In the months ahead, we will revisit the idea of creating a History prize in a specific high school that has a large enrollment of Filipino-American students. There will also be opportunities for members of BACEPOW to participate in presenting their first-hand knowledge to students. We'll keep you posted on the progress of this program, and hope that many of you will step forward to volunteer in fleshing out the program with your experiences.

Angus Lorenzen

## Japan's Militant History

By Angus Lorenzen

In our January edition, we discussed how Japan emerged from a feudal kingdom to a world power in less than 30 years, defeating China and Russia in two wars around the turn of the 20th Century. With the Meiji Restoration that strengthened the role of the Emperor in 1868, the threat of internal revolt required a strong military. In 1882, universal military conscription was instituted, which enabled the military to indoctrinate young men in patriotic values and the concept of unquestioning loyalty to the Emperor. This gave the military a strong hold over the government, which was not subject to civilian control.

The General Staff officers who were responsible for the planning and execution of military operations reported directly to the emperor. The Army and Navy ministers had control over who would be the Prime Minister, and though they did not report to him they could control all aspects of the government. The military also followed the Prussian model that favored military expansion overseas and authoritarian government at home. With its military successes, Japan adopted an aggressive foreign policy, and recognized the need for a strong military to secure its new empire.

The collapse of the world economic order during the Depression gave the Japanese military the view that it was able to resist all threats, both civil and military, and resulted in the philosophy that Japan could be the protector of Asia from the colonial powers. Japan increased its military strength, and by the start of the war with China in 1937, it already controlled Korea, Manchuria, Taiwan, and soon, most of eastern China, and had an alliance that let it control Thailand. Japan's overseas possessions were organized into a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. By the time Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, it had reached the peak of its military power, adding Malaya, Burma, French Indo China, Dutch East Indies, Philippines, and many Pacific islands to its portfolio. It could now direct the course that the nation of Japan would pursue in fighting the Pacific War, which some Japanese considered a war of national defense because of sanctions imposed by the U.S. as a result of Japan's invasion of China. It also considered itself as the liberator of the brown peoples from European and American colonialism.

But the Japanese underestimated the ability of America to bounce back from its losses at Pearl Harbor and the fury and dedication of its people to pursue an aggressive policy against Japan in the Pacific. Japan had every reason to believe that the Allies would be bled by the war in Europe and would not have surplus capability to pursue an effective war in the Pacific. But the enormous industrial capability of America was quickly and effectively harnessed into an effective war effort that soon was rolling out military equipment and ships at an unheard of rate. By August of 1942, American forces started the long road back across the Pacific with the bitterly opposed landings at Guadalcanal, and after fierce fighting started the march back through the Pacific islands with Admiral Nimitz commanding forces moving south and west from Hawaii and General MacArthur's forces fighting their way north and east from Australia.

Militancy, Continued on Page 3



# WORLD WAR II IN THE PHILIPPINES

## THE LEGACY OF TWO NATIONS

By Sascha Jansen

On October 24, 2015 an important conference was held at the Koret Auditorium at the San Francisco Main Public Library. These events were organized to educate the public on WWII in the Philippines, a seminal point in history that has been overlooked and almost forgotten. On the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII, the United States and the Philippines, joined together in celebration and education of freedom for the almost 4 years of Japanese aggressions, and occupation in the Philippines. The program was sponsored by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society, Memorare Manila 1945, the Philippine Consulate General of San Francisco and the San Francisco Public Library. One of their goals is to be able to include these important facts of our shared history in the California social sciences curriculum for Grades 7-12 so that this generation, and those to come, may learn of the great sacrifices that were made to bring the freedom that we are enjoying today.

In addition, a four-month exhibit at the San Francisco Main Public Library opened on September 12 and ran until January, 9, 2016. The exhibition presents the sacrifices of both Filipino and American soldiers, Allied civilian prisoners of war and the entire Philippine nation, where approximately a million civilians died between 1941 and 1945.

The conference was opened with a color guard from The Filipino American Law Enforcement Organization (FALEO) with placement of the flags and playing of taps. The well-attended program featured speakers with different experiences – World War II Filipino and American veterans, Allied civilian prisoners of war, and civilian survivors. Welcome speeches

were given by co-chairpersons Cecilia Gaerlan, Executive Director, Bataan Legacy Historical Society, and Consuelo Hall-McHugh, Founding Member of Memorare Manila 1945, plus Philippine Consul General, Henry Bensurto, Jr. The invocation was given by Major General Daniel Helix. The Keynote speaker was Tom Torlakson, California Superintendent of Education. We were encouraged by Tom Torlakson's enthusiasm for adding changes to the history curriculum to include our Filipino-American joint heritage in WWII.

Other guest speakers included Roderick Hall, Founding member of Memorare Manila 1945, with panelists Marietta Flores and Lourdes Poblete. The Civilian POWs perspective was covered by Sascha Jansen (Overview) and panelists John Ream, Roy Doolan, Francine Bostrom, and Irene Hecht, all members of BACEPOW.

Frederick Klink, U.S. Cavalry Association and Eagle Field Foundation spoke about the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry - guerrilla movement, and honored Edwin Ramsey of the Philippine Scouts. The Liberation of the Philippines was discussed by two WWII veterans - Chief Johnny Johnson of the USS San Francisco who described the U.S. Naval Order, and Major General Richard Keith, 511<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry – 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. Congressman Michael Honda, accompanied by students and Cub Scouts, honored the Veterans of the United States and the Philippines in the audience.

The Bataan Legacy Historical Society and Memorare Manila 1945 are planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual conference for next year.



Members of the civilian panel at the conference included, seated from left to right, Irene Hecht, Francine Bostrom, John Ream, Roy Doolan, and Sascha Jansen



As the war progressed and their military losses compounded, the Japanese civil government recognized the need for a negotiated settlement; but the military resisted any talk of negotiations to end to the war. Even after the atomic bombs were dropped, a panel of Japanese military officers toured Hiroshima and Nagasaki, claiming that the damage was no greater than what had already occurred from conventional bombing and Japan should continue to fight. The Emperor was swayed by the civil government's desire to end the war. A final military coup against the Emperor was attempted in August 1945 to prevent him from making his surrender address to the nation, and when this failed, the senior military officers who had pursued the war were discredited. Later, many were tried in the war crimes tribunals.

General MacArthur became the virtual leader of Japan upon the surrender and occupation, and his objectives were to help Japan rebuild itself, eradicate militarism and ultranationalism, promote political civil liberties, and institute democratic government. He also guided the writing of a new constitution which outlawed the maintenance of a standing army. Through his guidance, Japan was set on a course of recovery, and over the next decades, the creation of an economic miracle that made Japan's economy one of the largest and most successful in the world. No small factor in this achievement was the lack of a need to maintain a large military force of its own as it was sheltered under the US defense umbrella, thus freeing resources to build a strong economy.

In the years since the adoption of the new constitution in

1947, Japan's ministers have hewn largely to a passivism philosophy, maintaining only a small self-defense force and refusing to participate in overseas wars. It was only with the election of Shinzo Abe as Prime Minister that this policy has started to shift. Abe has unremittently failed to apologize for Japan's wartime treatment of its Chinese and other foreign enemies. He has committed himself to revising the 1947 constitution that renounces war and places constraints on Japan's armed forces, and he has built a coalition of conservative government and business leaders who support his goals and seeks to rewrite the history of WW II, placing Japan not as the aggressor but a victim forced into the war by American policies.

It will be interesting to watch how far he wants to carry the development of a strong military, returning to its militaristic past, especially in the face of a highly militarized China bent on an economic and territorial expansion policy in dealing with other southeast Asian countries. Abe has done the opposite of mollifying China about Japan's wartime aggression and revisionist history and Japan may regret such a policy. But undoubtedly, the U.S. will continue to shelter Japan from external threats unless it again becomes blatantly militaristic.

It is amazing that America and Japan, two nations who were such bitter enemies for almost 4 years of the Pacific War, should have become such great friends and economic partners in its aftermath. It is most unfortunate that the Japanese government's turn to such conservatism is again raising the specter of militarism, and Abe's militaristic moves could weaken the partnership between our two nations.

## **WELCOME TO THE WW II MUSEUM – NEW ORLEANS**

### ***BACEPOW REUNION 2017***

The WW II Museum in New Orleans was inspired by **Stephen E. Ambrose**, American historian and biographer, a long time professor of history at the University of New Orleans and the author of many best selling volumes of American popular history, Mr. Ambrose's life passion was concentrated on the European Theater of WWII before his untimely death in 2002.

*Ambrose's works and avid interests and specific works with D-Day veterans, inspired him to found the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. He initiated fundraising by donating \$500,000 and secured large contributions from the federal government, the State of Louisiana, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and many individual smaller donations. In 2003, Congress designated the museum as "America's National World War II Museum." The Stephen E. Ambrose Memorial Fund continues to support the development of the museum's Center for Study of the American Spirit, it's educational programs and oral history and public initiatives.*

Just a drop in the bucket of his vast and many writings, movie credits and numerous and important awards, Professor Ambrose's legacies will always be at the forefront of history through his WWII Museum in New Orleans. Some of his memorable works within recent times include the HBO series - the unforgettable *Saving Private Ryan*, also *Band of Brothers – E Company – 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and D-Day*, and his book, *Citizen Soldiers*, which became a number one New York Times best seller. His contributions to American history are gifts of the ages.

#### **NATIONAL WW II MUSEUM NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

*Located on a six acre campus, in downtown New Orleans, where five soaring pavilions house historical exhibits, multimedia experiences, a period dining theater, an expansive collection of oral histories and artifacts stands tall with the idea of introducing the public of students and scholars to the inside of WW II. The museum, with it's treasures, welcomes us to it's generation that sacrificed so much to secure our freedom.*

**Arrival: Wednesday – February 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Hotel: Embassy Suites New Orleans**

**Banquet: February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**All Day Program and Visit at WW II Museum  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Departure Dates: Feb 4<sup>th</sup> or choose your own personal departure date.**

*Please keep these dates in mind for a memorable 2017 BACEPOW reunion. More information will be forthcoming in the months to come.*

**Your BACEPOW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*For any questions please contact Sascha Jansen –  
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## We Knew You When

We are sad to inform you that last year Sascha Jansen lost both of her siblings who were in Santo Tomas with her. Here the Weinzheimer family is shown aboard the Admiral Capps in 1945, with Sascha sitting between her parents and Walter and Doris on the right side of the picture.



### WALTER (Buddy) WEINZHEIMER

#### A man of Hawaii and his true ALOHA SPIRIT

10-26-1941 to 7-2-2015

Walter was a true man of the islands. His paternal grandmother was pure Hawaiian from Koloa, Kauai and his many German, Hawaiian and Tahitian relatives also came from the aina.

Walter started his life on a sugar plantation in the Philippines on October 26, 1941, but quickly became one of the youngest civilian POWs held by the Japanese Army when they invaded the Philippines – spending 3½ years in STIC. Upon graduation from Santa Clara University, Walter became a Seminarian for almost 3 years, but decided to serve God in the civilian life. His many years with Pan American Airways and World Airways allowed him many fruitful years of travel and adventure.

He lived a beautiful life filled with family and good friends on the shores of Lake Tahoe and Punaluu, Hawaii, continuing in the travel business till the time of his passing. Walter was a kind, generous and a gentle man with an outrageous sense of humor, who had a deep devotion to God, and who truly embodied the Aloha Spirit.

Our favorite name for him, which my children and grandchildren still call him, is “Uncle Wonderful. So on behalf of our “Uncle Wonderful” we say – **“Aloha paumako no keia kanaka. Paulele ko makou na’au, e ke Akua, i ho’i kona uhane e noho pu me’ Oe i Kou poli aloha.”** (“Bless this dear man, Lord. We are faithful knowing that his beautiful spirit is with you now, and resting in your gentle arms.”)

Sascha Jean Jansen (Weinzheimer) sister.....and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins will miss “Uncle Wonderful”.

### DORIS WEINZHEIMER CRAWFORD MATHIS

Doris Alexa Weinzheimer was born in the Philippines on October 25th, 1938 of a long time sugar family in Laguna Province. In her early childhood, Doris and her family became civilian POWs of the Japanese during WW II for over 3 years.

Post-war in the Sacramento region of California, with the devastation of war left behind, Doris and her family enjoyed their sought after freedom and life on the farm. She attended Dominican convent in San Rafael, University of the Pacific and eventually University of Vienna in Austria. Her life in Vienna was one of the most pleasurable highlights of her life. Doris’s years of employment with the Atomic Energy Commission in Berkeley was an important part of her career choices.

Doris and James McNeil Crawford married and had one daughter, Audrey.

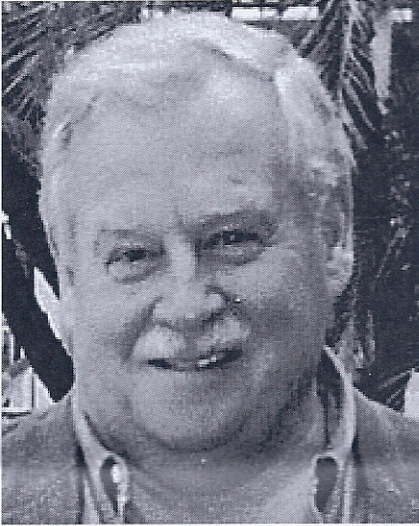
Eventually, the debilitating residuals of war re-appeared and sadly took over Doris's life. Her strength and will to survive an incurable disease for many difficult years came to it’s climax on August 24, 2015, where she died at home in Honolulu, Hawaii. Doris was a victim of PTSD, which started in Santo Tomas when the mere sight of a Jap soldier made her panic and scream, as did the loud noise from artillery fire or bombing. This condition continued after the war, but PTSD was not yet known and Pediatricians didn’t know how to treat her. After a few normal years, including having a family, Doris’s demons returned with a diagnosis of Paranoid Schizophrenia stemming from her early war years in camp. Unfortunately, Doris’s condition is not unique, as many children of all ages are victims of war.

Doris’s daughter, Audrey, with husband, Jeff Greenstreet, and granddaughters, Samantha and Nicki, mourn the loss of their mother and grandmother – along with her sister, Sascha Jean Jansen, with many nieces and nephews. We will miss you Dodie.



## Lee Allen

1938-2016

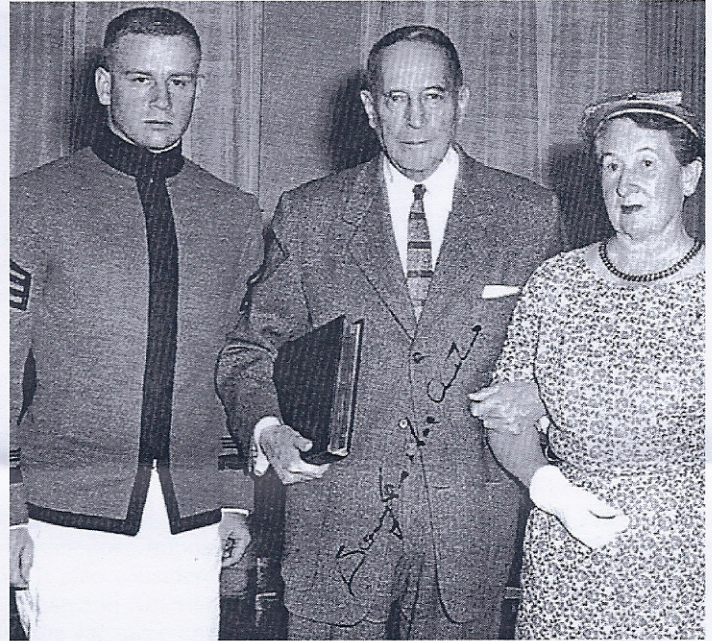
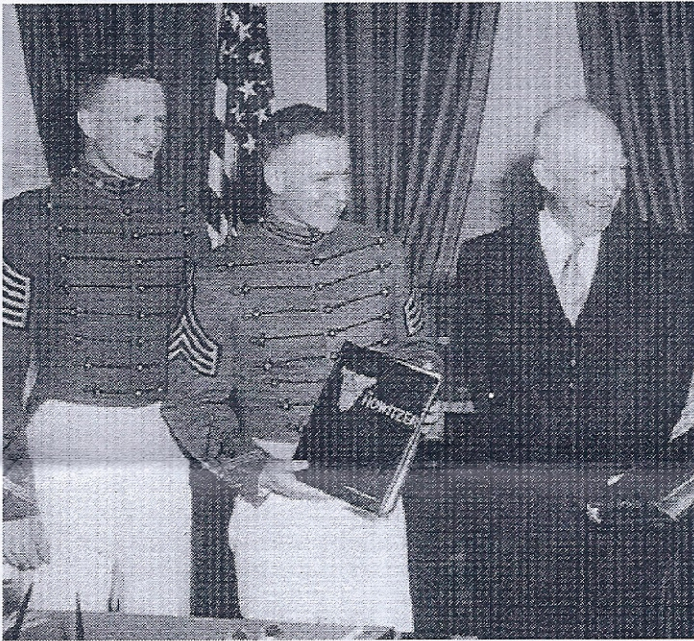


Lee Allen passed away on January 16, 2016 in Provo, Utah. Lee was born in Manila, Philippine Islands on October 24, 1938 to Henderson Wilcox Allen, an Army officer and Beulah Ream Allen, a physician. When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in 1941, Lee's father joined the forces defending the Bataan Peninsula, marched on the "Death March" and later died from disease and malnutrition in Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Beulah, pregnant with Henderson, and Lee were interned in Camp John Hay and later Camp Holmes in Baguio. In 1943 the three would be transferred to Santo Tomas internment in Manila. Lee received a congressional appointment to West Point and graduated in 1960. As the editor of the West Point yearbook he had the honor of presenting a copy to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and retired General Douglas MacArthur.

Lee had a successful 20 year military career as a combat arms officer serving round the world, including two tours in Viet Nam and a leader of the first group of Americans to the UN contingency guarding the peace in Golan Heights in Syria. His assignments varied greatly, teaching at West Point, commanding troops on the East German border to developing training programs for the Army. He declined a promotion to Colonel and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1980.

Lee developed the extremely comprehensive website ([www.internmentarchives.com](http://www.internmentarchives.com)) about the internment of Japanese-Americans by the U.S. government during WW II which dispels many of the myths that are being circulated by the media and others about their ill treatment. He prepared a two-part article about their internment for *Beyond the Wire* called *The Other Internees* and he also wrote an article about his escape in Santo Tomas from an infuriated Japanese guard who was scared by a low flying American dive-bomber shortly before liberation.

Lee married Silja Viinikka (Finland) and raised five children. After retirement they moved to Provo, Utah and have lived there for the past 35 years.



As editor of the West Point yearbook, Lee presents copies to President Eisenhower and also to retired General MacArthur with his mother Beulah looking on.

### Call for Stories

70 years ago, the prisoners freed from the Japanese camps in the Philippines had returned home and were making the transition to the post war life. This was easy for many, but for some it was more difficult as they faced a different culture from their previous experience, and had to learn new ways of doing things and interact with people who looked at them as being different. If you have a story about how you made the transition, we'd like to hear from you. It could have been traumatic or humorous, but it was a unique experience that few others in America had to undergo. Stories of the transitions are an important part of our collective history. Please send your stories to [bacepow@earthlink.net](mailto:bacepow@earthlink.net) for our next edition of this newsletter.



# Word of Mouth

By Sascha Jansen

## *Amazing Grace* – by Grace Brown – The Unbroken Spirit of a Japanese Prisoner of War

Available at Amazon Books, e-book “*amazing grace grace brown*” or buy from [brown@carlton-brown.com](mailto:brown@carlton-brown.com)

All the proceeds from the sale of the book go to “The Samaritans of Glasgow”

A mere 64 pages, Gracie Brown, a young wife and mother, under great adversity during WWII in the Philippines, writes diligently in her diary only too aware of the ramifications of such an illegal and dangerous activity under Japanese administration

On December 8, 1941, Caldwell and Grace Brown, who lived on the island of Cebu in the Philippines, were preparing to welcome their 1<sup>st</sup> born child. Caldwell, a branch manager of one of the oldest British sailing ship firms in the islands, was on his way to the office when he heard the news that Pearl Harbor was just attacked. Finding the news unconvincing and unbelievable he continued to his job.

Reality soon set in - so begins a harrowing experience for the Browns as the Japanese Army bombed, then invaded their home. Their constant moving by the Japanese to various encampments, finally reaching Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila, was unprecedented and terribly difficult.

Grace's pregnancy and the difficult and dangerous birth of her young son, Iain, was just the beginning of this young mother's painful three years of struggle. The hard reality of prison camp life changed for the young mother when her husband, Caldwell, was taken to the Kempetai headquarters in Fort Santiago for interrogation, not to be seen for two years.

Buckling down, mastering the grueling daily routine of latrine duties, standing in chow lines with baby Iain on her hips, and fighting a typhoon with treacherous flooding, Grace finally reached her lowest point. Giving it her all, she started keeping a

secret diary, cleverly hidden in her son's teddy bear. We learn of her constant fighting hunger, camp diseases, and worry about her husband's fate.

As the U.S. troops fought their way back to the Philippines to liberate and take back their adopted country, prisoners and citizens were barely hanging on - many perished of malnutrition and enemy fire. On February 3, 1945, Santo Tomas camp was liberated by the First Cavalry Division, thus ending the very worst experience for her family. Through the U.S. Army Grace finally found her husband in a hospital, starved and ill treated, but alive.

Their subsequent travel to America, then to their beloved Scotland, brought them the peace and freedom they longed for. But Caldwell never recovered and was a constant psychiatric patient till his death in 1979. Friends called her *Amazing Grace* as they watched this determined woman forge to the future with her son Iain, the lone supporter for her family. She worked as a school secretary and volunteered for many years as a Samaritan, counseling others through their traumas.

*On a personal note: The Browns shanty was directly behind ours. Both Iain and my brother were playmates. When Iain would be hiding from his mother under our shanty, she would call out in a trilling voice after her son, as we delightedly listened to her Scottish brogue. Good things have been known to come in small packages – such is this book. We marveled at her unbroken spirit and determination. Indeed, she was **Amazing Grace**.*

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