



From the Commander

This month we have the first in our series of museum "tours". We're introduced to the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor - Museum, Education and Research Center in West Virginia, by Jim Brockman, Executive Director. In upcoming newsletters, we will showcase other museums that cover WWII in the Philippines.

Thank you to those who filled out the survey in January's newsletter about reunion locations and your likelihood to attend future reunions, we had 46 responses. The winner was Sacramento, although the Southern California contingent carried Pismo Beach to a second-place vote, followed by Norfolk, VA and lastly, New Orleans. We also learned that just over 60% of responders have at least a somewhat high interest in attending a reunion. Unsurprisingly, there is higher interest in attending when a reunion is held within driving distance vs. flying, and 25% have a low or very low interest in attending regardless of location.

SAVE THE DATE: the next CPOW reunion will be in April 2023, The Embassy Suites Sacramento will again be the setting. Registration opens on April 13th with the program running April 14-16. The Embassy Suites has just completed a major renovation so it should be even more fun than ever to stay there next spring. The September newsletter will have registration information.

At our last Board meeting in March 2022, the Board accepted Scot Doolan's resignation as Treasurer, much appreciation to Scot for doing the job over the last few years. We now need another member to volunteer, preferably someone with financial experience. Our finances are straightforward, so it is not a complicated job. We also need volunteers to help with the 2023 reunion (for more information, see page 5).

In the February 2022 edition of its Business Journal, The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines included memories of liberation written by Leslie Ann Murray and CPOW members Angus Lorenzen, Ted Cadwallader, Karen Kerns Lewis and Martin Meadows. For those who haven't seen the article, it begins on page 22 of the February Business Journal, available at the following link: <https://www.amchamphilippines.com/publications/>.

That's the Spring update! Take care and stay well.

Sally Meadows

The National American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum

By James S. Brockman

In 2002, the Brooke County Library Foundation was given a collection of documents by Sgt. Ed Jackfert, United States Army Air Corps of Wellsburg, West Virginia. These documents included narratives and photographs of what happened in the Philippines on December 8, 1941 when the Japanese attacked both the Philippines and Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) thus starting World War II in the Pacific and forcing the United States to enter the war. From 2002 until 2009 other members of the ADBC Association contributed to the collection. In 2009 the Special Collection of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor became the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum and the ADBC Association transferred all rights, trademarks and licenses to the Brooke County Library Foundation. In 2015 the museum became the National American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum, Education & Research Center. The museum provides internships for five colleges and universities which give students training in preservation of documents, online applications and research into topics on the start of World War II in the Pacific.

The collection is made up of documents given by POWs of the Bataan Death March, descendants of the POWs, and people who want their loved ones' collections preserved; the museum continues to receive artifacts almost daily. Ninety five percent of the collection is devoted to the Bataan Death March and the incarceration of 12,000 American servicemen and women from 1942 to 1945. The other ten percent is devoted to local veterans to preserve their memory and their time in the service of our country.

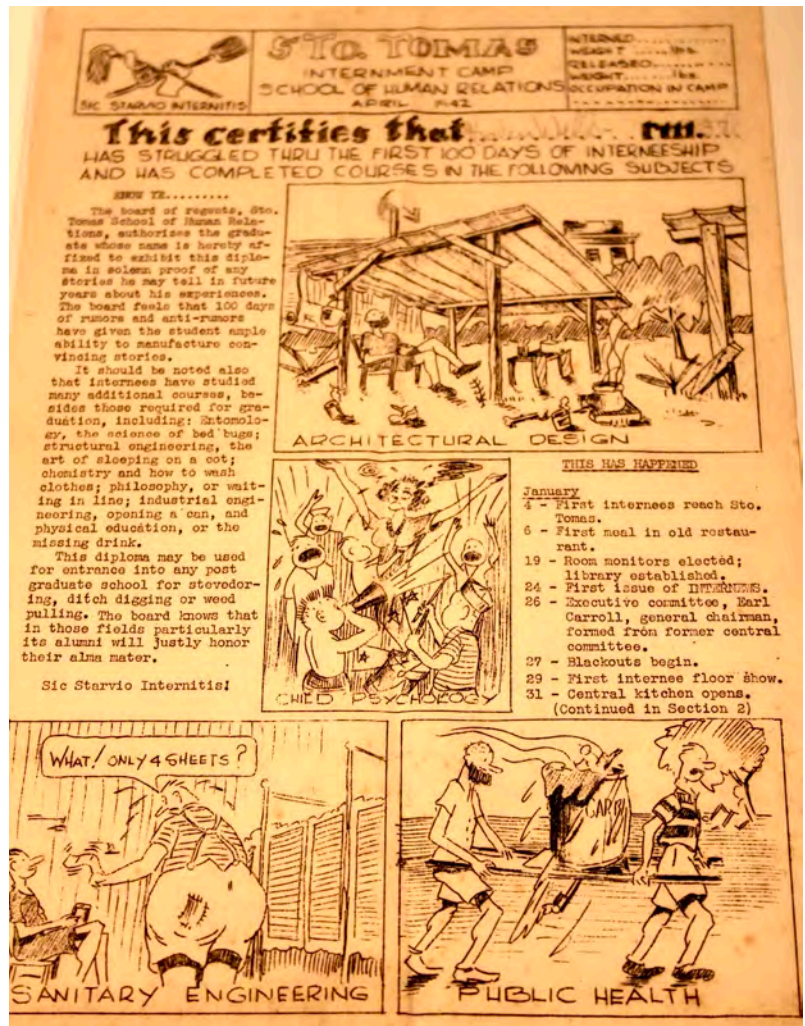
In the collection there are 1,500 diaries and documents written by the POWs while being held by the Japanese. The collection totals over 1.5 million pages of documents, 30,000 photographs and 10,000 objects. Artifacts include personal items such as clothing, rice bowls, flags, and even a trumpet used in the camp. One of the most significant artifacts is a photograph of the signing of the surrender by the Japanese on September 2, 1945 on the USS Missouri taken by TSgt. Jake Churchman of Wellsburg, West Virginia when he was a communication aide to General Douglas MacArthur during the occupation of Japan 1945-1947.

One of the most prized collections is our Santo Tomas / Cdr. A.S. Wells, USN Collection. It is a collection which

(ADBC Museum, continued from page 1)

includes artifacts from Santo Tomas, Abe Wells, and several hundred photos of the retaking of Corregidor. Contained in the collection are J.E. McCall's "STIC Toons" and Helen Wells' certificate indicating she made it through her first 100 days in the camp (shown at right).

In 2018, the Foundation dedicated the Bataan and Corregidor wing of the museum along with a climate-controlled archive, art gallery and conference center. Thanks to the generosity of Jeanette and Jon Meriwether and Nancy and David Hubbard of Wellsburg, West Virginia, the museum grew to over 10,000 square feet which allows it to display many artifacts and dedicate special collections of those who fought against the Japanese from December 8, 1941 until the surrender on May 6, 1942 in what is known as the Battle of the Philippines. It is the largest privately held collection of its kind in the world and has received worldwide recognition. The goal of the three founders was to make this information available to researchers, scholars and the general public and not forget what they went through as POWs at the hands of the Japanese. The collection is being digitized and is available at www.adbcmuseum.com. The museum is a non-profit and receives charitable contributions from private individuals and corporate sponsorships. The museum is free and open to the public 10 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday, Saturday by appointment. Address is ADBC Museum 945 Main Street, Wellsburg, West Virginia, 26070. Phone 304-737-7295.



The Education and Research Center preserves the history of the start of World War II in the Pacific



We Knew You When

Roderick C. M. Hall

November 7, 1932 - January 12, 2022

Rod was born in Manila on November 7th, 1932 to Alastair Hall and Consuelo McMicking. Rod and his two brothers & sister lived a happy childhood in Manila, until December 8th, 1941 when Japan invaded. For three years, he lived in the family home with his mother, siblings and other relatives, while his father was interned as an allied civilian at Santo Tomas.

In January of 1945 as American forces fought their way towards Manila, Rod's mother, grandmother, aunt and uncle were arrested by Japanese soldiers and executed. As a 12-year-old boy, Rod took care of his younger siblings as they sheltered in the rubble and ruins of their destroyed city for days before they were reunited with their father. He never forgot the American soldiers who helped them. Rod's experience led him to a life-long devotion of telling the stories of those who lived in war-torn Manila.

Along with his sister, Consuelo McHugh, and their childhood friend, Johnny Rocha, he spearheaded MEMORARE MANILA 1945, an organization created to honor and remember the 100,000 civilians who perished during the Battle of Manila. A statue in their memory stands in Intramuros, the old walled city of Manila. He joined three friends to write "Manila Memories" which described the experiences of the four boys during wartime. His legacy and dedication to the telling of stories about the war is centered at the Roderick Hall Collection in the Filipinas Heritage Library at the Ayala Museum in Makati,

Metro Manila. This library includes original documents, over 1,200 books, memoirs and films about World War II in the Philippines. The collection is one of the highlights of the Filipinas Heritage Library.

Consuelo (Connie) Carmen Ford

September 27, 1933 - February 14, 2022

Connie Ford was born in Manila, Philippines, September 27, 1933. She passed away peacefully in her Grass Valley, California home.

Connie was born and raised in the Philippines where her parents, Edward and Consuelo Ford, brought the family from the U.S. to live while Mr. Ford ran a successful banking business. Many Ford family members had also relocated to the Philippines for business purposes. Early in Connie's life, World War II broke out in the South Pacific with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Connie and family were imprisoned over the course of the war and finally liberated on February 3, 1945. Most of the family returned to the United States in May of 1945 while her father stayed behind to restore the banking business. The war as well as internment camp, left them emaciated, homeless and wrought with negative reminders, but ever so happy and thankful to be able to resume their lives.

Connie never forgot her friends or family members who endured the war and internment in the Philippines. They met regularly on or around February 3 each year to celebrate their liberation from the Japanese camps.



Advertisement

Philippine Art Gallery

Buying and Selling

Fine Philippine Paintings
Chinese Ceramics
Korean Ceramics
Scroll Paintings
Chinese Jade and Objects
Korean Paintings

Contact us for a price evaluation:

(805) 975-5413

info@philippineartgallery.com

Image: Detail of a painting by Fernando Amorsolo

CPOW 2022 Membership Form

We hope you enjoy CPOW's newsletter. Now is the time to renew (or sign up for) membership to keep receiving our newsletter. Please fill out this form and mail it with your check for \$15 (per person) to:

Cindie Leonard, 1675 S. Lake Crest Way, Eagle, ID 83616

Please make your check out to Civilian ex-POWs

Name(s): _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Email Address (please print clearly): _____

Phone Number: _____

How would you like to receive the CPOW newsletter? Email US Mail Both

If you are a new member only, please complete the following information by checking the appropriate box indicating your connection to CPOW and provide the requested information below. You do not need to fill this out if you are a renewing member.

For Ex-POWs

Camp(s) Check all that apply: Santo Tomas Baguio/Bilibid Los Baños Other

Name in camp (if different than current name): _____

Descendant, Relative or Friend

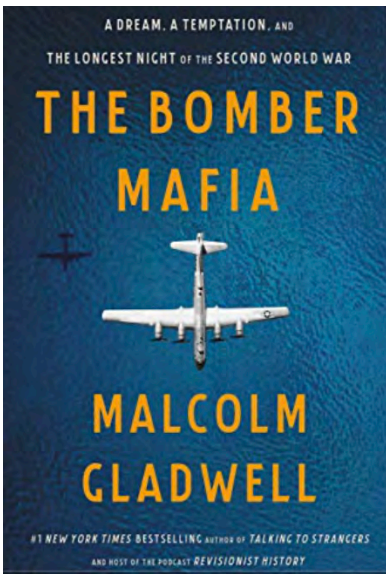
What is your relationship to the ex-POW? Please share the name(s) of your relative(s) or friend(s) -- including the name(s) they went by in camp, along with the camp(s) they were interned in.

Military Branch of Service _____

If you have any questions, please contact Cindie: cindieleonard@gmail.com or (208) 890-5694

Book Review by Angus Lorenzen

THE BOMBER MAFIA: A Dream, A Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War By Malcolm Gladwell | Little, Brown and Company, 2021



This is a book that is very easy to read because of the author's style. But the subject matter can be quite uncomfortable at times because it is about the destruction of cities and people. But then, there is little that is comfortable about World War II.

The advent of the B-29 entering the Pacific war held excitement for the Army Air Force and the press as now it was

possible to bomb Japan from the Marianas. A special unit was created to handle the fleet of bombers under a brilliant young general named Haywood Hansell. Through the fall and winter of 1944, Hansell launched attack after attack on Japan with hundreds of B-29s. But then on January 6, 1945, Hansell was relieved of command and replaced by Curtis LeMay. What was the reason for his dismissal? The book is the story of what happened before and after that moment.

One of the technological advances that made the bombers so lethal in WWII was the Norden bombsight. Imagine driving a car at 60 miles an hour and throwing a bottle out of the window into a stationary garbage can, then complicate the problem by being on a rutted potholed road, with a gusty wind and a bunch of little boys throwing dirt clods at you. The inventor of the bombsight was a Dutch engineer named Carl Norden, born in Indonesia, who singularly concentrated on designing a bombsight that would compensate for all of the vagaries encountered by the airplane and the falling bombs. There were adjustments to compensate for 64 different factors like airspeed, direction, air density, temperature, and so on. It was truly a masterpiece of technology for the 1930s.

Meanwhile, Maxwell Field in Alabama became home to the Air Corps Tactical School where the leaders were labeled "The Bomber Mafia". The first principle was that the bomber will always get through. Because it was unstoppable, they could attack in daylight. In daylight you could see what you wanted to bomb and could just line up your sight and do it. And if you had a bombsight, you could drop your bomb from up high in safety from

antiaircraft and fighters. The Mafia was truly audacious and had hope that their theories would work. And then they created the theory that all you had to do to win a war was to concentrate your bombs on the part of the production train that produced the critical parts for the enemy's defenses.

When the U.S. entered the European war, the British were doing area bombing at night. Being trained by the Mafia, the American Air Force decreed that it would do daylight precision bombing. They found that their theories weren't working very well. The pilots approaching their target were harassed by flack and enemy fighters and so didn't fly straight into the target but dodged around. The consequence was that the accuracy was not good because the bombardier didn't have a stable platform from which to aim and drop the bombs. The Mafia's theory was that from up high when you could see your target, it would be like dropping a pickle into a pickle barrel, but it just didn't work.

Then in early 1945, General LeMay arrived in the Marianas to take over the bombing of Japan. He realized the problem of weather much of the time made it difficult to see the target and to aim. Then they ran into the problem of dropping bombs from over 30,000 feet and discovered the jet stream flowing at perhaps 150 MPH below them sending the bombs wildly off course. LeMay's solution? Fly over the target at perhaps 5,000 feet and do area bombing with incendiary bombs, a concept defying the Mafia's dictates. And so began the devastating fire-bombing raids that devastated Tokyo and other major Japanese cities.

The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 caused such instant destruction that the Emperor called for Japan's surrender to save his people from more misery. Had they not been dropped, the fire-bombing would have continued causing millions more of the Japanese populace to die.

**We're Looking for Volunteers to Plan
CPOW's Next Reunion**

April 13-16, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Sacramento Riverfront Promenade

Please email Commander@CPOW.org
if you're able to help.

Cartoon from James E. McCall's "Santo Tomás Internment Camp - STIC in Verse and Reverse, STIC-toons and STIC-tistics", published in 1945.

