



# The QUAN



The ADBC Memorial Society and the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor

Volume 69

Wellsburg, West Virginia--Fall-Winter 2013

Number 2

## LA Site of “Never the Same” Film by Jan Thompson



Warren Jorgensen, Lester Tenney, Jim Collier, Bill Sanchez, Harry Corre, Houston Turner, Jan Thompson, Harold Bergbower, Jim Eldridge, Ed Friese, Don Versaw make up the POWs at the viewing of Jan Thompson's full length documentary

The Los Angeles Premiere of “Never The Same” was held at the Intolerance Museum on August 15. Ten former POWs were in attendance as well as several of the film's cast members including: Loretta Swit, Mike Farrell, Don Murray, Robert Loggia, and Christopher Franciosa. Other celebrities in attendance were Ruta Lee, “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,” Doris Roberts “Everyone Loves Raymond,” Jackie Joseph “Little Shop of Horrors” and Bill Christopher “MASH”. After the film there was a private reception where the celebrities spent some time with the former POWs. Loretta said afterwards, “The evening was a life-changing experience for me. Those men, those extraordinary men, irresistibly filled my heart to capacity and then to overflow. I am unabashedly proud to have met them and share those precious moments.” Robert Loggia was in attendance with his wife Audrey, and said “It was an inspiring evening in terms of really

(cont. on page 9)

### The Quan receives sizable donation

Eleanor Simmonds daughter of POW Norm Simmonds left money to help in production of future issues of the Quan. We are truly appreciative of this donation, because the Quan's postage constantly increases. POWs, Widows of POWs, Descendants and other subscribers can rest assured that the Quan can continue for a long time.

Eleanor enjoyed reading the Quan, and chose to have this money bequested in her memory. Eleanor Simmonds wrote to the Quan in 1997 requesting information about her father, Lt. Col. Norman B. Simmonds, 59th Coast Artillery who died on the Oryoku Maru. Eleanor and her three siblings lived as a family in the Philippines arriving in Fort Mills in July 1939. In May of 1941 Eleanor left the island. She was 17 when her father passed away. She received back from a reader who offered her information about her father and told her of other sources that might help her.

**Letter to Eleanor (wife) about her husband Norm Simmonds from ADBC Museum collection on page 18.**

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# The ADBC Memorial Society



of the  
American  
Defenders of  
Bataan &  
Corregidor



**The Quan**



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**ADBC Memorial Society**  
Honoring the Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor  
Dedicated to those persons living and dead who fought  
against overwhelming odds against  
the enemy at the outbreak of World War Two

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**Above, Back row: Patty Prichard, Kris Dahlstrom, Judy Pruitt,  
Front row: Jan Thompson, Jim Erikson, Caroline Burkhart**

Contributors to this issue: Jan Thompson, Kinue Tukodome, Pat Wang, Judy Pruitt, Terry and Dawne Clay, Linda McDavitt, Mindy Kotler  
Thanks to Regina Szyszkiewicz, Sarah Snider, Jan Thompson, and Caroline Burkhart for their proofreading help.



## President's Message -- Jan Thompson

There is much to report in the last few months since our Convention.

The fourth POW/Japan Trip was successful, and the delegation included widows for the first time. PNC Lester Tenney has accomplished much, making sure this program continues. Each year the Japanese Parliament has to vote to allocate funds for these trips so visits are not always guaranteed. These trips are important mainly because they help keep the history of our POWs alive in Japan.

Another positive item to report is that the Disabled American Veterans approved of a Resolution solely on behalf of our POWs. The Resolution is in this issue on page 13. This is an important alliance for our organization in that the DAV can help our voices be heard on Capitol Hill. The ADBC-MS Board overall supports this Resolution. Mindy Kotler was instrumental in making this Resolution happen and we are grateful to her for her hard work.

There have been some events since the Convention that have involved our former POWs: the Los Angeles Premiere of the documentary "Never The Same" gave several of the cast members the opportunity to meet ten of our former POWs. After the event

Loretta Swit called me and said, "Now they are my guys-not just yours." Loretta has agreed to be our banquet speaker at the 2014 Convention in San Jose. Loretta is also trying to be present at other events that include our former POWs.

Another event that was successful was the Mukden Reunion, where Ralph Griffith, Robert Rosendahl, Erwin Johnson and Ralph Edwards participated and gave a presentation to over 750 high school students. Descendants Terry and Dawne Clay organized this event and they should be commended for bringing the story of our POWs to a younger audience.

At the time of writing this column, another Descendant (and new member) Ken Buckles is organizing a massive event where (at last count) fourteen of our former

POWs will be attending and honored. This event is being held at the Evergreen Air & Space Museum in Mckinnville, Oregon. Ken, single-handedly, raised the funding to fly everyone in and to put them up in hotels. This four-day event will be attended by 20 high schools.

Though we are still a "young" organization we are in very good financial health. However, we have not been bringing in sufficient funds to help support several of our initiatives. So as this year ends, please consider making a donation to our organization. We are tax deductible and if you want, you can earmark what you want your donation to support: Education Grants, The Youth Competition Grant, The Roger Mansell Speaker Presentation or The ADBC Museum.

Happy Holidays,  
*Jan*



## Books for Sale

Two books by Jannie Wilbrink  
**Java Lost: A Child Imprisoned by the Japanese in WWII.**

**Java Lost: Eighteen Inches on a Mattress**

Each book is \$25.00 plus \$4.00

Shipping and Handling.

Contact: Marianne Rohrbough,  
13219 W. Twin Peaks Rd., Marana, AZ  
85653

**Once Forgotten**, by D.Randall Haley, Ph D and retired Army Major. It is about Philip R. Haley's combat and prisoner of war experiences in the Far East. It can be purchased at <http://amazon.com> for \$28.00

**Survivor**, An American soldier's heartfelt story of intense fighting, and survival from Bataan to Nagasaki -Msgt. Frank N. Lovato as told to Francisco Lovato it can be purchased at [www.survivorbook.com](http://www.survivorbook.com) for \$23.00

**I Am Coming Home**, by Wendell H. McGarry. It is a first person account of Dr. McGarry's experiences as a POW in the Philippine Islands. From Corregidor (1942), to Ft. Frank, to Bilibid, to Cabanatuan and to his liberation at Bilibid in 1945. It can be purchased at [gwenajm@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenajm@hotmail.com) for \$14.00 or e-mail requests to address below. Gwen J. McGarry, PO Box 392, Ephraim, Utah 84627



## Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I was wondering if you might be able to place a small request in the Quan. My father, James Henry "Hank" Cowan, was a member of the ADBC all his life. He had a coin that the ADBC put out commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bataan and Corregidor. I recently found that coin but it had been stored in a place where it corroded. If there are still some of those coins out there I would like very much to obtain another coin to replace this one. If you

could place an ad in the Quan asking if anyone has one of these coins and is willing to sell it to me I would be most appreciative.

Sincerely,  
Robert H. Cowan  
P.O. Box 3401157  
Sacramento, CA 95834-0157.

**Happy  
Holidays from  
the Quan, the  
ADBC Museum,  
and ADBC  
Memorial  
Society**

# Happenings at the ADBC Museum

## Donations to the Museum

Warren Jorgensen: Newcomb, Richard, "Death March" Was 25 Years Ago, The Cedar Rapids Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: March 26, 1967, Old Look and Life Magazines, Old Quans

M. Jean Thomas: Muriel Byers Kooi with Donald H. Thomas, "The Wrigley Peace Pact of August 17, 1945" (4th Marines)

Mary Lou Rote: Original Ed Kozer Photo Album

Linda Goetz Holmes: We received over 100 books and at least a dozen articles from Linda Goetz Holmes, Pacific War historian who wrote two books published by Naval Institute Press and who was one of the first people to view declassified items from war trials. It is an honor that she chose to donate her collection here. She also donated what she said was her most valuable item—a list of the camps and the Japanese companies that ran them which came from a Japanese professor.



Because of space I am not listing all the books, but if you would like a list you can e-mail me at [thequan@comcast.net](mailto:thequan@comcast.net) or call me at 304-737-1551.

Ed Jackfert: Happily Ever After by George Seever, Prisoners of War by Arnold Krammer, The Enemy in Our Hands by Robert Doyle (Professor Franciscan University), Best Little Stories from the Life and Times of Winston Churchill by C. Brian Kelley, Ribbons and Ed Jackfert Name Tags from 45th, 56th, 59th, 61st and 64th ADBC National Conventions, copies of numerous presentations Ed Jackfert created

George and Mary Kay Wallace: Ghost of Bataan Speaks, and Oh, God, Where Are You, by Abie Abraham, The Guerilla and the Hostage, by John E. Olson, Service to My Country, by Ed Jackfert, Bataan Uncensored, by Col. E. B. Miller, America's Best, by Sinclair Browning

Judith Heisinger: National Observance of the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II Proclamation signed by George Bush, National POW/MIA Day, 2005, Proclamation signed by George W. Bush, State of New York Citation to the Men of Mukden, Sept. 20, 2005,

Bill Ingram: Navy Uniform of Bill Ingram (Survivor of USS Houston)

Yukako Ibuki: The Nineteenth Memorial Service for the POWs of the British Commonwealth and the Former Allied Nations Who Died in Japan During World War II--August 3, 2013

Mindy Kotler: 70th Anniversary Anniversary Guestbook (Washington DC, April 24-

Jim Parkinson, lawyer and co-author of the Book Soldier Slaves donated 750 paperback copies of the book. He also donated 500 DVDs entitled "The Inheritance of War." These books and DVDs may be sold by the ADBC Museum to raise money.

Scott Caldwell: WWII Air Medal

Marvin Roslansky: World War II Magazine Subscription

## Programs and Events

Sept. 11 --Attorney General of West Virginia Visit to Library

Sept. 12--Presentation to Rotary about the ADBC Museum

Sept. 14--West Virginia Public Radio interviewed Ed Jackfert at the museum about his experiences and POW day

Sept. 20--POW/MIA Day and Dedication of New Shelves (more on page 17)

Sept. 28--Dr. Doyle's WWII Class from Franciscan University came for tour and program by Ed Jackfert (36 students)

Oct. 4-5--Display at Applefest in Wellsburg

Oct. 15 --Top of West Virginia Showcase and Taste of the Valley--display of ADBC Museum items and sale of items--several hundred people attended this event at the Serbian Cultural Center in Weirton

Nov. 11--Showing film for Veterans Day

## Upcoming Programs

Program by author of Soldier Slaves--date not set yet, but should be in December or January

March 27th--Program on Claire Phillips and espionage for the group "The Questers"

April 12-- 3rd Bataan Death March Memorial Walk

FAAP group will send Filipino dancers to perform native dances. The Wellsburg Elks has written a grant that will help in providing food for the marchers. They are offering their lodge stage as a place for the dancers to perform. This walk serves as a fund raiser for the museum. We have changed this to a weekend per request of participants.

## Statistics

Web Hits:	Average Pages Per Day
August 131,618	1978
September 128,618	1368
October: 138,425	1889
Total since Last Nov (2012)	over 1.5 million
Flickr (where our photos can be seen)	

Total view counts on our photos and sets are 77,452  
Facebook likes are 132

## Intern and Volunteer Help in Scanning and Organizing

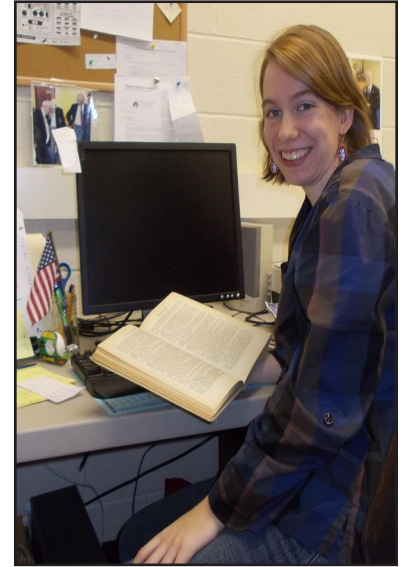


**Keith Haught examines a Japanese Rifle (Ariska 99) donated by POW John H. Oliver from Texas.**

Keith Haught from West Liberty University, WV, majors in history and has his sights on working in a museum. "The experience has been enjoyable and will be a good foundation for what I plan to do in the future." He has helped us place some of Colonel John Olsen's papers in subject folders and has scanned eight hundred convention photos and photos from Edward Fisher's albums. Being a hunter, he has a keen interest in some of the guns we have. He has worked at identifying some of the guns we have received in more detail. West Liberty University offers an internship that gives students three hours credit in return for 140 hours of service to the museum.

Regina Szyszkiewicz graduated in 2011 from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio with a degree in history. She returned to her home state of Minnesota and then she decided to come back to the Steubenville area. She wanted to work at the ADBC museum ever since her professor, Robert Doyle, brought his students over. Dr. Doyle, a Vietnam veteran and Fulbright scholar, is an expert on POWs and wrote several books on prisoners of war. His latest is [The Enemy in Our Hands](#). Regina says about her experience here, "I am interested in American Military history. After my trip with Dr. Doyle to the museum, I was very moved by the stories of the POWs. I feel veterans' stories need to be told and working here allows me to do this. I've enjoyed helping descendants find

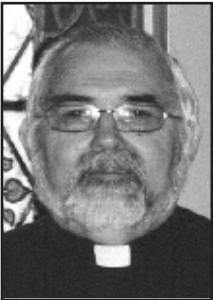
**Regina Szyszkiewicz reads books on Claire Phillips for a special program the museum is preparing for a tour coming in the spring.**



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## The Chaplain's Corner – Davis Ferrell

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The crimson leaves are beginning to fall and there is a dusting of snow on the higher peaks. It is one of my favorite times of year. Here at our house we are even beginning to prepare for Thanksgiving. For me, it is a time to start quieting down from the summer's rush and to remember those things that seemed to rush by in the summer sun.

It is also a time to remember those times during my life that were important to me. One of those memories that always returns at these times took place during World War II. It took place every night. Mother and I would sit on the side of the bed as I said my evening prayers. As you know, that was a very difficult time for Mother and for a young boy. Of course, I really did not have any idea of what was happening to dad. All I knew was that he could not be with us and that he was not getting enough to eat.

My prayers would always start with one to keep dad and all the prisoners safe and bring them home safely and soon. That always seemed to make my emotions begin to churn. It was at this time that Mother would have me list my blessings. That was often not an easy thing to do at that point. Even so, she would insist that I think of at least two things I was thankful for. It never took away the fears I had for dad's safety but did help that churning feeling. Though I did not realize it at the time, it took me from being very down to feeling warm and loved.

After dad returned home, I always remember those times when

he would put his arm around my shoulders and tell me the importance of ending each day by counting my blessings. I wish I could tell you that I have always taken the time each night to count my blessings. The truth is that I haven't. But when I have I assure you that I have gone to bed in a much more peaceful state.

So as we approach Thanksgiving Day 2013, I ask each of you, as you say your prayers, to take the time to count your blessings. Do not feel bad if at times those blessings seem like they are insignificant. The size of the blessing is not the important thing--it is recalling something you are thankful for.

Each night I also pray for each of you and count both this organization and each of you a blessing in my life. I have said it before but if you would like me to include you or anyone else on my prayer list please email me.

Also as the necrologist, I ask that if you know of an ADBC member who has passed, that you email me any information you have about them. I would much rather hear from a dozen different sources than to miss anyone.

**D+**





## 2014 ADBC Memorial Society Youth Project Competition

In 2014, the ADBC Memorial Society will be sponsoring their first YOUTH PROJECT COMPETITION. It will be a contest for students ages 12 to 18 and the winner will get a \$250 prize. The judging will be for creative projects providing information about the story of the Japanese Invasion of the Philippines and other Pacific islands and the POWs that were held there or moved to another location by the Japanese for slave labor. These projects can be done through the development of a play, video production, art display, or essay that depicts the story of the experiences of the POWs of the Pacific theatre in WWII.

In order to enter the contest, one must fill out the following "Intent to Compete" form and send it to: (NOTE: the project is not due at that time, only the Intent to Compete form)

Linda McDavitt  
5201 McCormick Mountain  
Austin, Texas 78734

The deadline to enter their "Intent to Compete" form will be March 31, 2014. Entries will be judged the morning of May 30, 2014 starting at 9am. All entries must be sent to Linda McDavitt and received prior to Friday, May 23, 2014 unless it will be a live presentation. Those doing live presentations must check into the convention by 5pm Thursday, May 29, 2014 to receive instructions as to where they will need to be for the judging on Friday, May 30th. Winner of the contest and runner ups will be announced at the General meeting, Friday, May 30, 2013 and at the Annual Banquet Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the Hyatt Place Hotel, San Jose, CA.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT MY PROJECT May 30, 2014 at the ADBC MEMORIAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION IN San Jose, California.

YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ BUT MY PROJECT WILL BE THERE

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, please contact Linda McDavitt at [bandboat@hotmail.com](mailto:bandboat@hotmail.com) or call 512-731-6614.

# Four POWs and Three Widows go to Japan



**Phillip Coon and Erwin Johnson**

On October 14th, the group visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama, and on the 15th, they met with the Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida who thanked them for coming to Japan. Then they spoke at a Press Conference, and a public lecture at Temple University.

On the 16th they went to the US Embassy, where they had a friendship meeting and a reception. For the next two days, the groups split up for smaller group visits.

Philip Coon, his son Michael, Mr. Erwin Johnson, his wife Ann, and Mrs. Esther Jennings visited the former site of Kosaka POW camp. Phillip Coon (94), was a member of the US Army 31st Infantry. He is a full-blooded member of the Muskegoe Creek Nation. He became a POW after the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942 and was forced to walk the Bataan Death March. He was sent to Japan in 1944 and was held at Kosaka POW camp, where he was forced to work in a copper mine.

Erwin R. Johnson (91), was in the US Army Air Corps. After the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942, Johnson participated in the Bataan Death March. He was shipped to Mukden, Manchuria in October of 1942. He was forced to work there until he was liberated by the Soviet troops on August 17, 1945.

Esther Jennings is a widow of Clinton Jennings of the US Army. Clinton became a POW when Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942. He was sent to Japan in August of 1944. He was held at Fukuoka 23 Keisen camp and later at Fukuoka #9 camp. At both camps he was forced to work in coal mines.

On October 17, Mr. Marvin Roslansky, his wife Josephine, Mrs. Flora Cummins and her daughter, Mrs. Glenda Elaine Sutton, visited the former site of Zentsuji POW camp. The visit was arranged by Mr. Hiroyuki Mori, a member of the "Historical Society of Kagawa Prefecture."

Marvin Roslansky became a POW when the island of Guam fell to the Japanese forces on December 9, 1941. He was sent to Zentsuji POW camp in Shikoku, Japan and made to work as a freight laborer for three years and ten months until his liberation in 1945. At this return to the Zentsuji site, he laid flowers for the memorial built by local people in 1947 for those POWs who



**Marvin Roslansky**

the memorial built by local people in 1947 for those POWs who

died. At the lower right, he points to a picture of himself that had been taken after his liberation.

On the 18th, the Roslanskys, Mrs. Cummins and her daughter Glenda paid their respects to the Memorial Plate dedicated to George B. Scott, the only American POW who died in the Mukaishima camp. Lora Cummins is the widow of Ferron E. Cummins, US Army Air Corps.

Ferron became a POW on April 9, 1942 and survived the Bataan Death March. He was sent to Japan in September of 1944 and held at Mukaishima POW camp. He was forced to work as a stevedore until he was liberated.



**Ferron Cummins**



**Glenda Sutton and Lora Cummins**

The Heers--Robert and Karen--and Marjean McGrew visited at Hakodate while the others toured sites special to them. Robert B. Heer (91), US Army Air Corps, became a POW in Mindanao on May 10, 1942. He was sent to Japan after being held in POW camps in Formosa (Taiwan) nearly two years. He was held in POW camps in Hokkaido and liberated at Akabira camp where he was forced to work in a coal mine.

Marjean McGrew was married to Albert McGrew of the US Army. Alfred became a POW on May 6, 1942 on Corregidor.



**Alfred McGrew**

He was sent to Japan in August 1944 and was held at three camps in Japan. At one of the camps, Nisshin Flour Mill, he cooked for his fellow POWs. He was finally liberated at Suwa POW camp in Nagano.

The entire delegation visited Kyoto where the name cards of 48,000 Allied soldiers who died in Japanese territory are kept in the Memorial Hall of this temple.



**Steve McGrew, Marjean McGrew, Mr. Mastoshi Asari, Karen and Robert Heer, and Yuka Ibuki**

Information taken from Kinue Tokudome reports

## San Jose Convention 2014

The fourth annual ADBC Memorial Society convention will be held in San Jose, CA from Wednesday, May 28 through Saturday, May 31. The hotel is the Hyatt Place San Jose/Downtown, 282 Almaden Boulevard, San Jose, CA. The room rate is \$109 plus tax per night. For reservations, please call 888-942-8847 or 408-998-0400 being sure to mention ADBC Memorial Society to receive our rate. Website to make reservations:

[http://www.sanjose.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp\\_id=G-ADBC](http://www.sanjose.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-ADBC)

The hotel is located three miles from the San Jose International Airport. It is also possible to fly into San Francisco; however, the hotel does not provide an airport shuttle. The hotel does have on-site parking and has waived its parking charges for our group.

The Hyatt is located in the downtown area and there are a number of restaurants located within a few blocks. It is also close to Santana Row which has numerous shops, coffee places restaurants and other interesting places. There are also many interesting local attractions.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU IN SAN JOSE.**

## ADBC AUCTION 2014

The Annual auction at the ADBC convention has proven to be a great fund raiser for the Educational Grant Program but it only works if a lot of people donate items to be sold and attendees plan to bid on items that strike their fancy. The proceeds go to fund the Educational Grants, which are given to winning applicants to create materials, which educate students at all levels, and the general public about the events of WW II in the Pacific. Please be thinking of something you might contribute. WW II books and artifacts are top sellers but many of us have passed our artifacts on, so we have branched out into hand painted items, jewelry, food items, gift cards from national chains, etc are also great. Use your imagination!! If you like it, someone else will also. Items can be mailed or brought to San Jose. More information will follow. PS; we are undecided about including the on-line aspect this year. What do you think? Want to help? Contact Pat at [patwangnc@yahoo.com](mailto:patwangnc@yahoo.com) or 704-264-9877.

Submitted by Pat Wang

### ADBC-MEMORIAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you have not renewed your 2013 membership or if you would like to join the ADBC-Memorial Society as a new member, please add \$31 to your convention registration fee or write a separate check. \*\*\*\*(Please Print Information)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (                      ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF POW RELATIVE/FRIEND \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY UNIT & PRISON CAMP (S) (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO POW \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED ON ADBC-MS MAIL LIST ?   Y   N   PUBLISH E-MAIL ADDRESS ON  
WEB SITE?   Y   N   (Circle Y or N)

ANNUAL DUES - \$31.00   Make your check payable to ADBC-Memorial Society and mail with this form to:

JUDY PRUITT, TREASURER, 23 ELWELL RD, JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130





Robert Rosendahl

Randall Edwards

Erwin Johnson

Ralph Griffith

## Mukden Men Reunite and Talk to over 750 Students who Give them Standing Ovation

On Tuesday, Oct., 1 four of our POWs (Randall Edwards, Robert Rosendahl, Erwin Johnson & Ralph Griffith) and their spouses, along with 13 other descendants came to the Microtel in Hamburg, Pa. We had a meet-and-greet on Tuesday evening with several local people asking various questions for one hour.

Wednesday, we went to Gettysburg Battlefield and had a bus tour with a walk-on-guide who did a wonderful job even though we could not get on the battlefield due to the National Park Shut Down. Thursday we went to a local attraction (Roadside

America), had lunch; went to a winery for tasting and then to a local movie theater for a 1936 film, "Rhythm on the Range."

Friday we went to Hamburg Area High School and showed Jan Thompson's film, "The Tragedy of Bataan" to over 750 students. After the film we had a question and answer period for one hour. One of the questions was "Why did you survive?" and Randall said he was not going to let the "little yellow bastards win." The students started to applaud and laugh. The students gave the POWs a standing ovation at the end. I was told by the School Superinten-

dent that a senior came up to him in the cafeteria and thanked him for the assembly and told him it was the best assembly they had in the four years he was in high school. Also, the teachers said all the students wanted to talk about the assembly for the rest of the day. The four POWs were also on a local radio show (WEEU Feedback), paid for by the Hamburg Area High School Military History Club. We ended the day by going to see "NOAH" at Sight & Sound Theater. On Saturday, we had the Memorial Service and the Banquet. Next year's reunion is in Greensboro.

--Submitted by Terry and Dawne Clay

### LA Screening of Never The Same (cont. from page one)

understanding what these men experienced. Absolutely amazing that ANYONE was able to survive. Spending a few minutes with a couple of these survivors was nothing short of humbling. These men were and are true American heroes."

"As a Gulf War II Vet and grandson of a POW, the experience of watching this film and being in the presence of the men who lived through captivity was truly humbling. They (WWII veterans) are our living National Treasures and we will forever owe the 'World's Greatest Generation' a huge debt of gratitude for the freedoms we have today." - Deputy Sheriff Christopher T. Landavazo/Founder of President Cops 4 Causes

The film is scheduled for a screening at the Evergreen Air & Space Museum in early November and around the country in 2014.





Above: Jan Thompson, Ruta Lee and Francisco Lovato

Harold Bergbower, Loretta Swit, and Jim Collier

*Los Angeles  
Screening  
of  
"Never  
the  
Same"*



Above: Mike Farrell, Jan Thompson, Don Versaw, Houston Turner and Don Murray

Picture at Right  
From Left to Right: Ed Friese, Loretta Swit, Bill Sanchez, Warren Jorgensen, and Jan Thompson



## *Pictures from Japan Trip*



**The 2013 POW Delegation at the Ritsumeikan University's Kyoto Museum for World Peace**



**Among those who welcomed the group to Mukaishima were Mr. Kazuharu Goriki, Deputy Mayor of Onomichi, Mr. Koichiro Sugihara, Onomichi City councilman and former mayor of Mukaishima, and Ms. Akemi Wada, Director of Mukaishima branch of Onomichi municipal office.**



# Quan Subscriptions

Note: After one year Quan will be put up online at <http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/>

Subscriptions due by Feb. 28, 2014

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See page one for more details. The Disabled American Veterans approved of a Resolution solely on behalf of our POWs.

## RESOLUTION NO. 183

### SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the Government of Japan through its Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki offered an official apology to American POWs for their abuse, misuse, pain, and suffering caused by Imperial Japan; and

WHEREAS, in September 2010, the Government of Japan reinforced its apology by initiating a visitation program for former POWs to visit Japan, to return to the sites of their imprisonment, and to receive the apology directly from senior Japanese government officials; and

WHEREAS, the United States owes much to these soldiers, sailors, Marines, and air men, the majority of whom fought in the early heroic battles of World War II in the Philippines, on Wake Island, Guam, Java, and in the Sunda Strait; and

WHEREAS, the American POWs of Imperial Japan were forced into slave labor throughout the Japanese Empire in the most unjust, brutal, and inhumane conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports and commends the efforts of the American POWs of Japan to reclaim their dignity and attain full justice from the Government of Japan and those Japanese private companies that enslaved them; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV insists the Government of Japan provide and publicize an official transcript in English and Japanese of the Government's 2009 apology to the American POWs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV insists Congress and the Administration work with all parties involved to ensure the continuation of the POW visitation program to Japan, that it be expanded to include family members and descendants, and funds be provided for a dedicated program of research, documentation, exchange, and education; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV works with all parties involved in persuading the private Japanese companies that benefited from POW slave labor during WWII, especially those companies now doing business in the United States, to follow the Japanese government's lead in acknowledging their use and abuse of American POW labor and join with the Japanese government to create a fund for remembrance, research, documentation, exchange, and education on the POW experience in the Pacific and its lessons for war and peace.



### News Briefs

Phillip Coon made news in the Supalpa Times on Oct. 26, and also on Fox News on Oct. 22. He was presented with his long overdue military medals at the Tulsa International Airport with little fanfare. Only about two dozen people were in attendance.

The Supalpa Times reported on his trip to Japan. "The Coons brought with them a large 26 pound black marble monument. Inscribed on a brass plate, Coon's name, array affiliation, POW status, and a bas-relief carved emblem and detonation of his membership in the fighting fraternity the Battling Bastards of Bataan. The monument was left at the copper mine to mark Coon's return as a free man to the spot of his former imprisonment." The Japanese were amazed with Phillip Coon's memory.

The Sapulpans also brought gifts to Japan made by the Muscogee-Creek Nation artisans, a turtle rattler, ball and a large Muscogee Robe courtesy of Principal Chief George Tiger.

+++++

The Maywood Bataan Day Organization held their annual ceremony, "Bataan Day," which has been celebrated since September 1942. They preserve the memory of Co. "B" of the 192 Tank Battalion who, as members of the 33rd Tank, 33rd Infantry Division of the Illinois National Guard, based at the Armory in Maywood, were federalized in November 1940 and subsequently sent to the Philippines in October 1941. Eighty-nine young men from Maywood were deployed to the Philippines and half of them did not return home.

Hundreds of people gathered to remember the men and the suffering of the men 71 years earlier. Filipinos also remembered their experiences as their country experienced horrors and deprivation during World War II.

### Do you know your dues are due for ADBC Memorial Society?

Just a reminder that your membership in the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society is now up for renewal for 2014. Widows and POWs are exempt from dues and are considered members. Our membership year runs January through December.

Dues are \$31 which includes electronic Quan or \$37 which includes a hard copy of the Quan.

Please send a check made out to "ADBC-MS to:  
Ms. Judy Pruitt 23 Elwell Road, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Thank you.  
Caroline Burkhart  
Vice President

carolineburkhart@yahoo.com

# ~ Deceased ~

## Deaths

### This Issue

**Brenner, William, R., Dr.  
Cape, Jack  
George, Pete  
Loftus, Donald  
Ojinaga, Vicente R.**

### Dr. William Brenner

Dr. William Rush Brenner, 98, passed away in Larned, Kansas July 19, 2013. He was born May 22, 1915, the son of William and Rose Brenner in Rush County, Kansas. where he grew up. He attended Creighton University Medical School in Omaha, Nebraska, receiving an MD Degree in 1939. After his residency he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps as a Flight Surgeon in 1940. He signed up for the 35<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Group after training and departed for the Philippines. A survivor of the Bataan Death March, he remained a prisoner until 1945 when he was liberated. He was promoted to Major and awarded a Bronze Star for his heroic actions. During the war, his wife Jo and son had stayed in San Francisco and their family's story during the war was chronicled in a book, "I'm Praying Very Hard for You." They moved to Larned, Kansas where he practice medicine for 30 years and raised six children. After retirement in 1978 he served on the Larned City Council for 10 years and as Mayor for six. He belonged to the AMA, the Kansas Medical Society and was a fellow in the College of General Practice. He also became a member of the American Legion, the V.F.W., and was Commander of the Western Kansas chapter of the American EX-POWs. He also actively supported the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the local community with his time. Until his death, he was the National Physician for the Ex-Prisoners of Bataan and Corregidor. His wife of 54 years, Mary Josephine

McGowan preceded him in death. Also, predeceasing him were his son, Stephen James, two brothers, Leo and Edward, and one sister Irene Antenen. His surviving children are William Rush Brenner, Jr. of Williamsburg, Virginia, Robert John Brenner of Wichita, Barbara Elston Polston of Kansas City, Missouri, Anne Margaret Armstrong of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Katherine Josephine Brenner of Eugene, Oregon. He also has 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was buried in the Larned Cemetery with military graveside rites.

### Jack Cape



Sergeant Jack Cape, 93, died Thursday, October 3, 2013 in Lawton. Oklahoma. He was born October 18, 1919 in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, the second of five children to William Albert "Buster" and Emmie May (Charles) Cape. He grew up and attended school in Pauls Valley. He left home during the depression and entered the Civilian Conservation Corps to help his family. He entered the U.S. Army on March 8, 1941 and was stationed on Angel Island. He boarded the ship "Republic" traveling to the Philippines for assignment. After the Pearl Harbor bombing he was stationed on the Bataan Peninsula until General King's surrender on April 8, 1942. He joined the infamous "Death March" from Bataan up to San Fernando where over 10,000 soldiers died. After a train ride to Capas, he marched to Camp O'Donnell where there were not enough well men to bury the dead. He had malaria, beriberi and dysentery. Later, he was moved to Cabanatuan Camp #1 by truck and hospitalized for six months. When he got better, he was placed on a work detail at Las Pinas and worked on an airfield out of Manila for the Japanese. He developed heart problems and was sent back to Cabanatuan. Later he was taken to Bilibid to get ready to be shipped to Japan for slave labor. In 1944 he was transported on the hellship "Noto Maru"

to Japan. In the hold thousands of men had standing room only. Once in Japan, he was sent to Hanawa Sendai Camp #6 and worked in the copper mines for a year until the bombs dropped in 1945 and Japan surrendered. He spent three years and four months as a prisoner of war at the hands of the Japanese. In September of 1945, after being rescued from prison camp, he was taken back to the Philippines on a hospital ship. Jack weighed 98 pounds due to starvation. After a month he was sent back to the states and discharged. In 1946 he reenlisted in the Army and remained in the U.S. Army until his retirement on April 1, 1962. His awards include the World War II Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon with one Bronze Star, AP Theater Ribbon with One Bronze Service Star, Philippine Defense Ribbon with One Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Commendation Medical Badge with 3 Bronze Stars, Army Occupation Medal (Japan), United Nations Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Marksman (M-14 Rifle) Badge. He was a lifetime member of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC). Jack lived in Pauls Valley and Lawton following his retirement from the Army. He cared for his parents until their deaths and was always a special uncle to his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Tom and Buster Cape, and two sisters, Ruby Dell Wilson and Geraldine Lafay Clemons. He is survived by nieces, Jan Howenstine and Marsha Anderson; nephews, John Cape, Jack Wilson and Jeff Clemons; and several great nieces and nephews.

### Pete George



Pete George, 93, died September, 2013, at Rosewood Living Center in Flower Mound TX. Born in Dallas, TX, he grew up in a neighborhood near Exall Park. He



# Deceased-Continued

attended Crozier Tech High School until he dropped out to help his family during the Depression. Pete joined the China Marines in 1939 and he was moved to the Philippines before the Pearl Harbor attack. He served in combat on the Bataan Peninsula and was wounded on Corregidor the night before its surrender in May, 1942. He had a five inch piece of shrapnel in his left leg from the battle. Without anesthesia three corpsmen removed the shrapnel, but he was left with muscle loss and he suffered the rest of his life from the wound. His son said his friends were impressed by his scars when he wore shorts in the summer. He recuperated in a prison hospital before being sent to Cabanatuan to grow crops that fed the Japanese guards. After 18 months, he was sent to Yokkaichi prison camp No. 5 in Japan until liberation in 1945. He gave the war crimes tribunal an affidavit about his treatment. In May, 1946, he married Juanita Elizabeth McCarthy. He earned a high school equivalency certificate and attended some college. He stayed in the Marines and received special munitions training. In 1952, he chose to take medical retirement and then pursued a career in home sales and commercial construction. After retirement in the mid-80s he worked with one of his daughters in day care. He grew up as a Greek Orthodox and then became a Catholic when he married and was a member of the St. Luke Catholic Church in Irving. Pete George is survived by four sons, Michael of Carrollton, Nick of Irving, John of Argyle, and David of Carrollton. Three daughters also survive him: Patti George of Carrollton, Karen Webb of Irving, and Theresa Finchum of Carrollton. He also has 23 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. He was buried with full military honors at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

## Donald E. Loftus

Donald Edward Loftus died Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at his home in Dunmore. His wife of 56 years Anne Walsh Loftus, died in 2007. Born in Jessup, PA, and one of 13 children, he was the son of the late Edward V. and Frances Campbell Loftus. He was a graduate of Jessup High School and

attended the University of Scranton. He received a degree in medical laboratory and X-ray technology from Franklin School of Science and Arts in Philadelphia. He was a staff sergeant in the Army, a defender of Bataan and Corregidor, a Purple Heart recipient and a prisoner of war during World War II. He served as manager of Clinical Laboratories in Scranton for more than 30 years. He was a caring, fun loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. An avid golfer, he was also a loyal Red Sox and Notre Dame fan. Surviving are four sons, Donald Jr. and wife, Jeanne Loftus, Dunmore; Joseph W. Loftus, Scranton; Ted Loftus, Dunmore; and Rocky and wife, Carol Loftus, Atlanta; three daughters, Marsia and husband, John Kohanski, Dunmore; Dean Loftus and husband, Connall Killeen, Dunmore; and Karen Loftus and husband, Steven Zaretsky, Harrison, N.Y.; 23 grandchildren, Jillian, Joseph and wife, Juliet; Matthew, Patricia, Richard, Ren and wife, Kristina; Kathleen, Elizabeth, Donald III, Patrick, Ryann, Amy, Colleen, Meghan, Bryan, Anna, Jack, Evan, Madelyn, Rachel, Rebekah, Sydney and Anya. He is also survived by a sister, Betty Flannery, Dunmore; and a brother, Frank and wife, Jeanne Loftus, New Hope. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the IHM Center, c/o Marywood University, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18509.



## Vicente R. Ojinaga

Vicente R. Ojinaga, 95, died September 30, 2013. Vicente was born on Jan. 22, 1918 in Santa Rita, NM to Josefa Jose Ojinaga. He was a graduate of Hurley High School and attended NM Western University in Silver City. He graduated from University of New Mexico with a Bachelors of Business Administration. He retired from the State of New Mexico Tax and Revenue Department as Chief of Administrative Services. He served in the 200th Coast Artillery of the NM National Guard and was federalized by the U.S. Army for service in WW II. He served in the Asiatic Pacific theater

of operations and survived the infamous Bataan Death March. As a member of a 3-inch anti-aircraft gun crew he assisted in loading, aiming, and firing of the gun to destroy enemy aircraft. He fought for four months using hand-to-hand combat tactics prior to his capture by the Japanese Army on April 9, 1941. After three years in prison, he was liberated by the US Army Forces on September 7, 1945. He received the American Defense Service Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Philippine Defense ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and POW Medal. He also received the Presidential Unit Citation with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Victory Ribbon and earned 7 overseas Service Bars. He served as an income tax counselor for the Elderly, past President of the Board for Guadalupe Credit Union, past Board member of the State Employees Credit Union, Eucharistic minister for the sick and elderly, past Treasurer of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Council, past treasurer of Casa Solana Neighborhood Association, member of the Knights of Columbus, Toastmasters, Elks, DAV, VFW, American Legion, American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Survivors of Bataan and Corregidor. Vicente is survived by his wife Celia of 64 years who lovingly cared for him; daughter Teri (Mike); sons Richard (Susan), John (Anna), Corky (Renee), and Sam (Marcy); 17 grandchildren; eight great-grand children; sisters-in-law Elisa, Mary, Cory, Wally; and his brothers-in-law Sonny, Ray and Guillermo. Vicente was preceded in death by his parents, Josefa and Jose Ojina, his sisters, Soledad Garcia, Lupe Costales and Delores Torres, his brothers Anselmo, Jose, Ramon and Mike; his sisters-in-law Maria, Josefina, Priscilla, Hortencia and Norma; his brothers-in-law Arturo, Israel, Manuel and Alfonso. He was buried in the Santa Fe National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to San Martin de San Isidro, 3552 Agua Fria St., Santa Fe, NM or a charity of one's choice.



# POW Day and Shelf Dedication at the ADBC Museum



On Sept. 20th the ADBC Museum held a ceremony for POW day and dedicated new shelves. Scott Adams, WV State Police Sgt. and Iraq veteran, gave the invocation. Charlotte Lohr read a poem called "The Forgotten Men of Corregidor," one of hundreds of poems we have in our collection. They can be found under the heading Poetry on the ADBC website: <http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us>.

Ed Jackfert commended POWs from WWII, which had the largest amount of captured men on foreign soil. He spoke movingly about the families who suffer not knowing whether their family members are alive or dead. "Having their family missing keeps the war alive for the families even though the guns have ceased and the treaties have been signed."

Jackfert spoke of the residual effects he had from his three year and seven month captivity. He has back problems from lifting heavy drums of gasoline and unloading ships from the docks. "I was 100 pounds then from our lack of proper food, and I was forced to lift 120 pounds."

"On November 1, 1944, I saw my first American B-29. Then they became a daily event, and eventually hit the Nishing flour plant where I worked." This was fearful time for Ed, and when he was finally rescued he reminisced about seeing the flag. "Seeing that red, white, and blue meant so much after what we had been through."

After Mr. Jackfert spoke, Abie Abraham's story, shown when he won the Western Pennsylvania's leadership award in 2011, was shared with the audience. The presentation can be found on YouTube if you put in "abie abraham chairman's award." In the video, Abie talked about leaving his wife and daughters on Christmas Eve to join the war. After he had served in other jungles, he was part of the 31st infantry and endured the Death March. "It was 102 degrees on the March and I saw prisoners beheaded and struck with rifles. There was starvation and death on the march."

In the prison camp at Cabanatuan, he recorded the names of people and how they died. The 6th Ranger Battalion rescued Abraham. After his service to the Army he did a tour of Germany. In Butler, where he lived he devoted over 40,000 hours to the VA hospital.

Both Abie and Ed have written books. George and Mary Kay  
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Wallace donated two books to the library authored by Abie: "The Ghost of Bataan Speaks," and "Oh, God, Where are You?" Ed has written, "Service to my Country." Abie's widow, Chris Abraham, drove down from Renfrew, PA to attend the event.

Jane Kraina, ADBC Museum Coordinator, also dedicated the wall cabinet, a new display case, and fourteen shadow boxes that the museum was able to acquire after a \$100,000 donation from a childhood friend, Judy Shih. Judy's donation has also provided for operating costs for the museum. "Judy is one of the most gracious people I know. She is special to me and it means a lot that her husband Joel Axelrod and Judy made the donation to the museum. Judy used to come to my house when she was a child and she felt my mother treated her well. She gave the money in memory of my mother, Emily Warner." Judy hopes her donation would encourage other people to consider giving to the ADBC Museum.

Attendees for the event came from as far as Cincinnati and North Potomac, MD. Ten Army, Marine and Navy veterans who served in WWII, Vietnam, and Iraq were in attendance.



To the far left are Judy Shih and Joel Axelrod, Museum benefactors. To the near left are Charles and Emily Warner in 1937. Funds were donated in memory of Emily Warner.



All the new cabinets at the library



# The Last Cavalry Charge

sent in by Chris Shaefer

Philippine Islands, January 1942. In the mid-day heat on the West Coast of Bataan Peninsula, twenty-six Filipino horsemen picked their way along a narrow dirt road toward the coastal village of Morong. As the trees and brush subsided near the edge of town, their American commander, First Lieutenant Edwin Price Ramsey, ordered his men to “draw pistols” and form “as foragers”—a straight-across line of cavalrymen with weapons at the ready. Ramsey’s senses were aroused by the lack of villagers to greet his men, and a few perceptible movements deep within the village.

Shots rang out! One of Ramsey’s soldiers snapped back in his saddle and clung desperately to his horse, severely wounded. Ramsey raised his pistol and yelled “Charge!”

The Filipinos spurred their horses forward and rode into the village firing from their saddles. As the galloping horses rounded corners of buildings near the town church the cavalrymen confronted the advance guard of a Japanese infantry regiment that was about to occupy the town.

The startled Japanese, surprised and unprepared for this sudden onslaught of whooping, firing, mounted cavalrymen, broke and ran.

Ramsey’s men pursued the Japanese to the Bataan River. As the Japanese soldiers scrambled into the water and hid along the riverbank, Japanese reinforcements poured out of the jungle across the river. The Filipinos jumped off their horses and formed a defense line along the riverbank. They held the Japanese back for five hours until their own reinforcements arrived to take over.

Barely a month after the Japanese attacked the Philippines, Lieutenant Edwin Ramsey and his men, all members of the U.S. 26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts, had successfully conducted the last horse-mounted cavalry charge in United States military history.



However, the fight on Bataan ultimately proved to be hopeless as the Japanese Army and Navy surrounded and starved out the 80,000 Filipino and American defenders there. By April 1942 the men were emaciated and racked with malaria. On April 9, under pressure from an all-out Japanese assault, the commanding general of Bataan forces surrendered to the Japanese in order to save the lives of his sick and starving soldiers.

But Lieutenant Ramsey’s war was not over. Rather than surrender, Edwin Ramsey took off into the jungle, moved north onto Luzon island with a few other escaped American officers, and began to recruit Filipino guerrillas into an organization called the East Central Luzon Guerrilla Area. The Japanese launched numerous operations to capture and kill the guerrilla leaders, and Lieutenant Edwin Ramsey ultimately became commander of 40,000 guerrilla fighters as he was the last of those U.S. officers still alive—with the Japanese offering a large reward for his body, dead or alive.

In 1945, when General Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippine Islands, Ramsey’s guerrilla forces were a significant factor and MacArthur personally awarded Edwin Ramsey the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary leadership, the Silver Star for his heroism under fire, and the Purple Heart for his combat wounds. The exploits of Ramsey and his men have been recounted in two books and the documentary movie *Forgotten Soldiers*.

After World War II, Edwin Ramsey bore no grudges against the Japanese who had pursued and tried to kill him in the jungles of Luzon. He launched an outstanding career as an international businessman in Japan itself, then in Taiwan, and later as a private businessman in the Philippine Islands. He died in Los Angeles in March 2013 at age 95. On June 28, 2013, his body was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C., with full military honors, including a beautiful riderless black horse to commemorate the hero who led the United States Army’s last cavalry charge.

(more on page 19)



**Letter to Eleanor Simmonds (wife) about her husband Norm who died on the Oryoko Maru (see page 1)**  
**Note: Both mother and daughter shared the name Eleanor**

Col.E.C.Engelhart,  
January 26, 1946.

My dear Eleanor,

Your letter came just a few minutes ago. Ever since I reached the States on October 16th I have been trying to get your address. Just last Monday I wrote to Joe Moss in the War Department and asked him to do what he could in finding your address for me.

I knew Norm very well – and am sending you by separate mail his chopsticks. I think he made the case, and I know you will want them.

Back on Corregidor, after Mac “took the field” (as the Manila newspapers put it) and moved into the tunnel on the Rock, I was borrowed by Gen. Moore from G-2 and became more or less unofficially the Mine Commander. Norm was Bunker's executive in Seaward Defense, so I had a lot to do with Norm officially. I moved into the James Ravine casemate, but was outdoors a lot, thereby collecting

a Purple Heart with three oak leaf clusters (my luck stayed with me when I later collected two more), but I frequently had an opportunity to chin with Norm. I can't tell you how much I like him – he was a man, Eleanor, and he wanted to fight a war, so Norm and I had our mutual indignation sessions and blew off steam and resentment against our superiors who seemed to be content to let the Japs take the initiative. Norm did not have a pleasant time on the Rock, and I am telling you this Eleanor, because I know how much you want to hear everything about him – but please don't pass it on. Norm used to growl to me about the way his boss wanted to shoot at the Japs, and I well remember the day when he asked for firing orders and got the reply, “Well, maybe if we don't shoot at the Japs today, they won't shoot at us.” Norm boiled, so did I – but we became very close to each other and I think we comforted each other a great deal in such woes. I know he helped me.

After the surrender, Norm's good balance helped a great deal in our controlling our own people. He didn't believe, either, in the “hundreds of planes and thousands of men on the way” and liberation just a few weeks away. He had his feet on the ground and seriously expected a long endurance contest in sticking out our captivity. At Cabanatuan, for a long time, we were separated in camp, but saw each other frequently to compare our information from underground sources. Our sources were different but gave us a good cross-check. Of course, there were politics among the prisoners on the American side of the fence—camp administration. I looked out for Norm's interests and eventually got him into a job in which he was not exposed to mistreatment by Japs guards in work outside of the camp. He stayed inside of the fence, but I was outside. I was an interpreter, and very unpopular with the American camp administration (mostly Marines), principally because I was looking out for the interests of our prisoners as a group and didn't hesitate to sound off about some of the raw deals which were pulled for the benefit of a few high-ranking Marines. Norm and I together did a lot and I know our soldiers soon caught on to our efforts for them and appreciated them. They knew he was a square-shooter.



**Norm and his daughter Eleanor,  
1941**

For nearly a year, Norm and I lived in the same building in Cabanatuan, just before we were pulled out to go to Japan. I remember when mail began to come in, that Norm was always wondering what postmark would be on your next letter. He laughed about it a great deal, and said it seemed you were commuting from Massachusetts to Florida. I'm almost certain now that it was Florida. We told each other little bits gleaned from our mail - and Eleanor, that mail brought us a great deal of happiness. He talked about how the girls were growing up, and used to say that it looked like an even bet that one of them might be married and make him a grandfather before the Yanks came back to the Philippines.

Norm thought an awful lot of his family and talked about you and the children a great deal. My later experiences have killed my memory of many details and now I can't remember for certain whether you have three girls and a boy, but I still have the feeling that I know you all very well. Somewhere in our household goods we have a movie taken on the bench at Monre. In it, a Simmonds baby reels across the scene, sun-suit pants hanging low in the back. Norm and I often tried to figure out which one it is.

Our trip North from Manila was bad. Some newspaper s.o.b. wrote a wild account of it, badly exaggerated and highly sensationalized. I hope you didn't see it. I blew off to the San Francisco paper which bought and ran it. A matter-of-fact account of that trip, written Col. H. K. Johnson, was in the final copy of Philippine Postscripts. I am sending it to you, but please return it when you can. I want to keep it. Johnson's account is fairly accurate in detail. All of the time I was very busy, trying to get food, water, and medicines from the Japs but with only inadequate response.

Norm came through both bombings – Subic and Takao – without a scratch. I got hit both times, but was not disabled. Between Takao and Japan we had a very bad time. The food given us would not stave off starvation and the lack of water was absolutely criminal. Bigger men, the stronger men, actually fared worse than the small men, because they needed more fuel for their systems. I was fortunately one of the small men, and many of us gave part of our rations of food and water to the larger men. I am certain the Japs did cut us intentionally, to force us to exchange our few remaining possessions for food and water. I was go-between in many transactions because I could bicker with the Japs in their own language. Norm wanted water--and he waited as long as he could, maybe too long. Then I swapped his class ring to a Jap guard for water. I got Norm a full canteen of water and an additional quart-can full. It was about 11:30 at night when I got the water--the bastardly Jap tried to short-change me on the deal but I got every drop and took it to Norm. He

**(cont. on next page)**

## Letter to Eleanor cont. from previous page

sipped on the canteen while we talked a little while, wondering just what part of the ocean our ship was in then. We talked of our families. Norm wished he had more insurance -- a wish that was uppermost in the minds of every man among us. We wondered what our chances would be, if any, should an American sub spot us --

The next morning, Eleanor, Norm was gone. He had slept away. It was a terrible shock to me, Eleanor, even after seeing so many cheerful men go to sleep and not wake up. Please believe this. None of us were tortured with hunger or thirst. We knew we needed more food and more water, but there was no intolerable yearning. A man slowly weakened. He slept more. Finally, he didn't wake up. That is the truth, Eleanor, so please don't think that Norm's death was an agonizing torture. He slept away -- the quietest passing that could be desired -- in the midst of friends.

Norm died at sea, Jan. 15, 1945, according to my note. I wrote down the date on a piece of paper from a cigarette package, discarded by a Japanese, and later in Japan transferred it to a memo book I wheedled out of a guard. He was buried at sea, after one of our chaplains held a brief service in the hold. Many men were dying then and the daily rate later climbed to about fifty.

Norm's possessions were pitifully few. A shirt, pair of trousers, a canteen, the bottom half of a mess kit, and his chop-sticks. That was all, I kept Norm's chopsticks for you, and everything else went to men who had nothing. He was bare-footed. I had been until a couple of days before when an officer loaned me his shoes because I was on my feet all the time. The next day, that officer was killed when we were bombed at Takao.

The whole trip was a nightmare to me, Eleanor, probably more so than other men because I was faced with such much frustration in trying to get what we needed from the Japs. How I survived, I don't know, but the day we got ashore at Moji, I weighed just 85 lbs. I attribute it in some way to my never having had a chance to wonder about my own condition. When I was awake, I was way-laying Japs and pleading with them for food and water.

I know I can't offer you comfort, Eleanor, but I do want to tell you about this. We knew our chances of survival were slim, and we talked about many things. On one point, we were all in complete agreement. All of us wanted our widows to marry again and regain happiness. And we promised that any survivors would make that wish known. I think it would comfort Norm. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know.

*Carl*

## The Last Cavalry Charge (cont. from page seventeen)



For additional information, photographs, or black and white photographs, contact:

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Dr. Raquel Ramsey (family contact): [ed.ramsey@verizon.net](mailto:ed.ramsey@verizon.net), 310-478-3634

**Credits:**

Edwin Ramsey funeral at Arlington National Cemetery (credit required):

Photo by ©Paolo Cascio Photography 2013 ([www.paolocascio.com](http://www.paolocascio.com))  
The Last Cavalry Charge: Painting by John Solie, Riderless horse(-credit required): Photo by ©Paolo Cascio Photography 2013 ([www.paolocascio.com](http://www.paolocascio.com)).  
Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey composite: Philip Garcia, Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

Ed Ramsey portrait shot: from Forgotten Soldiers, Platinum Multimedia LLC.



## Corrections in The Quan Summer Issue



In the Summer issue Judith Heisinger's daughter to the left was misidentified. The people in the picture are Lora Cummins, Judith Heisinger, and Jennifer Heisinger Flint.

The on-line version has been corrected. My apologies for the error.

Jane Kraina, editor



## MOVING SOON?

Please let us know six weeks before you move what your new address will be. Be sure to supply us with both your old and new address, including the address label from your current issue. Copies we mail to your old address will not be delivered by the Post Office.

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# The QUAN



The ADBC Memorial Society and the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum



Here are some older pictures that have been scanned recently by Keith and Regina, our interns. I do not have everyone identified in the first picture but in the tan jacket is Phillip Coon, at a convention. In the other photo on the right Jerome McDavitt, Past ADBC National Commander(r) displays a flag. The flag was made from pieces of red, white and blue parachutes that were dropping food to the men in Omine Machi. This flag is now at Texas A&M University. Other camps also made flags.