



From the Commander

This edition starts the second year of our newsletter *Beyond The Wire*, and previews our second reunion in a row, both significant accomplishments for our BACEPOW organization. Last year's reunion was a resounding success and we hope to make this year even better. We are having a more formal lecture series on Saturday. Our Saturday evening reception will be better than ever with the serving of a special Filipino treat – lumpia, and we are featuring a keynote speaker at our Sunday banquet.

If there is a theme for this reunion, it is the 65th anniversary of 1944. What was so special about that year? Two things are notable. First, the American forces in the Pacific went into high gear, with Nimitz' forces advancing through the Pacific Islands and MacArthur's forces advancing towards the Philippines, closing the noose around the Japanese home islands. The Japanese finally realized that their dream of empire was doomed, and consequently their treatment of POWs became ever harsher. This resulted in the second thing of note, and that was the defining of 1944 as the "Year of Starvation". Though we suffered enormously, the American initiative led to an early liberation.

Last year, 2008, was a seminal year for our organization. We elected two new Board members who specifically represent the descendents of POWs in our organization – John Hamilton and Paula Jansen. Two of our long-term Directors, John and Joan Montessa, resigned and we thank them for their many years of service to our organization. We welcome aboard the two new directors who were elected to replace them - John Ream and Ric Laurence.

Our last luncheon meeting, held in Alameda, was a great success and a lot of fun. Roger Mansell gave an excellent presentation that kept the audience riveted as he discussed many aspects of the POW camps run by the Japanese. He and his organization, Center for Research, Allied POWs under the Japanese, are busy compiling a comprehensive list all of the prisoners and the camps in which they were held. It is well worth a visit to his website www.mansell.com/pow-index.html.

Our plans for meeting this year include the reunion in Fremont on February 13 to 15, and luncheons in the Bay Area in June and October, and Southern California in August – details later. Hope to see you there.

Angus Lorenzen, Commander

Camp Profile

This is the second article in our series about the civilian prison camps in Japanese occupied East Asia. It is authored by John Ream, assisted by family members who were all prisoners.

Internment Camp #3 Baguio and Bilibid Prison

Camp John Hay, in Baguio, was bombed about six hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked, after which local Japanese civilians were interned there. On December 27, 1941, elements of the Japanese invading force occupied Baguio and freed these Japanese prisoners after the U.S. Army and Philippine Scouts had been evacuated to Bataan. U.S. and allied civilians were directed to report to Brent School - "Bring three days' provisions" - and were then marched through town to Camp John Hay.

Camp John Hay Camp John Hay was a typical Army post with barracks and support buildings, and the Japanese designated it as Camp #3. When the new prisoners arrived the men were segregated from the women and children. In both sections mattresses were placed on the floor of the barracks, crowded up to one another for sleeping. Bathroom facilities and food acquisition were inadequate for the number of people being housed. The water supply was meager. In the evening, the men and women were allowed to "commingle" in the tennis courts - "No touching". On April 23, 1942 Camp #3 was moved to Camp Holmes about five miles north of Baguio.

Camp Holmes Camp Holmes (now Camp Dangwa) had previously been a Philippine Constabulary training camp situated in the fertile Trinidad Valley. With the mountains at your back one could look 50 miles down the canyon to the China Sea, it was the "Club Med" of POW camps. Located at around 5,000-foot altitude, it was near pine forests and had a year-round moderate temperature. Camp Holmes was a large facility, with three large barracks, numerous isolated cottages and some shop buildings. The Japanese took over two of the cottages for their own use, while the internees used the largest one for a hospital. The mothers and small babies were assigned the remaining tiny cottage. A large kitchen and mess hall served the whole camp.

Bilibid Prison On December 27, 1944 Camp #3 was moved from picturesque Camp Holmes to Old Bilibid Prison in Manila. 300 military POWs suffering from cholera were moved out of the old three-story hospital building, which had been in the process of demolition during pre-war times. These prisoners were relocated to an adjacent compound in the prison and the civilians occupied the partially demolished building. Bilibid Prison was within walking distance of the larger Santo Tomas Internment Camp, but no interaction between camps

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Internment Camp #3 (Continued from page 1)

was allowed. Conditions in Bilibid were primitive: no chairs, few beds, or place to eat. Bathrooms were unsanitary troughs dumping into the ground. Fortunately, liberation came within six weeks of arrival.



American Mortar Crew behind Bilibid Prison

Population Camp #3 had three distinct populations: miners, missionaries and others. At the beginning of incarceration the numbers varied widely as Chinese moved out, missionaries moved in, then out, then back in. Some were transferred to Santo Tomas mid-war, and some families who “took to the hills” had to surrender. The population stabilized at around 500 internees. Most were American, a half dozen were British and a few were Australian.

Mortality Nineteen internees died while in Camp #3. One was presumed to have been tortured to death and eighteen died of other causes. Some of those related to malnutrition or lack of adequate medical facilities.

Administration Camp #3 was fortunate to have as its commandants and administrators some Japanese who were known to the prisoners. Prewar, these Japanese had been carpenters, businessmen, photographers and other occupations in the local community. One of the commandants, Rokuro Tomibe, was as humane as one could expect. He helped make the internees stay as easy as it was possible for him to do. Camp #3 also was fortunate to have an older internee, Nellie McKim, who had been born and reared in Japan and spoke fluent Japanese with all the nuances and customs. She was the main communicator with the Japanese and warded off many troubles.

Immediately upon being interned, a committee was formed to act as a liaison with the Japanese and to do the day-to-day management of the camp. The committee members soon became elected, subject to approval by the Japanese.

Food and Health Food was always a major problem, especially at the start and at the end of internment. Food was always of poor quality and inadequate portions. Breakfast was usually rice (hard or soft) with a spoon of syrup and sometimes a rotten banana. Lunch consisted of soup and maybe a banana. Dinner was rice or gabi (an obnoxious, slimy potato-like vegetable much like taro), a touch of meat and maybe some squash or chard which had been grown in the camp. A few goats,

cows and chickens were maintained to provide milk and eggs for the children and the sick.

Off and on during internment, food from the outside could be purchased from a little store, but the food problem worsened towards the end of 1944. When the camp was moved to Manila, the internees were fed the same starvation diet that the military prisoners endured the whole time of imprisonment. 800 calories was the average daily allocation in Bilibid Prison. Health problems associated with nutritional deficiencies were common.

Hygiene was always a main battle, especially in Bilibid Prison. Flies swarmed around the open toilets, which were no more than slanted troughs one straddled. Occasionally someone would pour a bucket of water to wash the waste into the ground. Along the interior wall were several hundred graves of military prisoners who perished from disease. An effort to dig a well as an alternative source determined there was no place further than about twenty yards from either the toilets or the graves and that the water table was only about three feet below the surface. The major health problems were dysentery, dengue fever, hepatitis and beri beri in all locations.

Work Assignments One of the first persons to be drafted into service was the young manager of a local hotel. Although Alex Kaluzhny claimed no knowledge of cooking, he knew how much food to order for 500 people, and became the head cook of the camp. After repatriation, Alex joined a friend and started a restaurant in Oakland, later expanding worldwide - TRADER VIC'S.

Everyone in camp had to work in a job according to his/her qualifications. Doctors, nurses, teachers, cooks, handymen, blacksmiths, cobblers and others had to do their part. Even students had to put in three hours a week of community service. The high school boys mostly served on the garbage crew, taking the garbage wagon out of camp to the dump, under guard of course. Others joined the men on the hill to chop wood for the kitchen stoves. They also manned the kitchen cleanup, allowing them a few extra scraps to fill out their diets. Women and girls cleaned vegetables, picked stones and worms out of rice or worked in the camp gardens.

Living Quarters In Camp John Hay and Camp Holmes the prisoners were housed in the large open rooms of military barracks. Each person had living space the length of his/her mattress and about 18-24 inches on either side separating him/her from the next person. After a year, creative minds figured out that the beds could be hung from the ceiling above other beds, leaving space for tables, chairs and shelves.

In Bilibid, it was mostly mattresses on the floor while some slept on wooden beds.

At the start of internment men were separated from women and children and only allowed to commingle during certain times. This prohibition was slowly relaxed when sexes were allowed to commingle for most of the day. However, it was not until April of 1944 that families were allowed to live together.

Education Within a week of internment, school was started without books. After six months the Japanese allowed a couple of men out to get books from the school, though. history and geography books were prohibited. These men also brought in

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Internment Camp #3 (Continued from page 2)

enough recreational reading to open a small library, and Maryknoll nuns sent in books on occasion. If homework entailed the use of a book, it had to be passed around because of the shortage. Paper was very scarce and pencils were used down to the nub.

Recreation Camp recreation included activities every Saturday night, bridge tournaments, and softball tournaments (the three teams being juniors, seniors and missionaries). Camp #3 had talented people in many fields - science, drama, music, dance and others. Performances were put on regularly. These evening events in the dining room were almost the only time the men and women could be together. Mostly they were segregated except for the commingling hour in the late afternoons where they could walk about the parade grounds under the watchful eyes of the guards - no touching. Sometimes the entertainment was a clever spoof on some opera or Shakespearian drama. Several plays were put on by the high school or elementary school. Each Christmas, the prisoners would enjoy a traditional performance of the Nativity with music from the camp choir. Creative production and costuming peaked in the spectacular "Passion" play of Easter, 1944, (depicting scenes from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion).

Treatment For the most part, physical abuse by the Japanese was not a major problem. At the beginning there were several incidents of cuffing some of the young male prisoners. There were other incidents, however, that could be described as nothing less than severe brutality. One missionary who was suspected as being a spy against the Japanese while he was in China was taken out of camp for interrogation. He never returned and it was months, and many inquiries later that his wife learned that he had died. Another man who had been smuggling liquor into the camp was severely beaten with a baseball bat and golf club. When two men escaped to join the guerillas, three of their associates were taken to town and severely tortured by the Kempetai. Commandant Tomibe went to town and retrieved "his" prisoners. He had tears in his eyes when he witnessed their injuries. Tomibe was subsequently demoted and transferred.

Liberation In late 1944 there were two sightings of U. S. aircraft over Camp Holmes. One, a Navy fighter, swooped low over the camp, and the other a high flying P-38 was obviously making a photo recon run. When Camp #3 was transferred to Manila, the road was full of trucks moving the Japanese Army to Baguio. Upon arrival in Manila in the last week of 1944 it was obvious that there was a war on. Navy dive-bombers were hitting the docks and the U.S. Army Air Corps' B-24s flew almost daily bomb runs over the City. On February 3rd elements of the 1st Cavalry entered the outskirts of Manila. Sporadic firing could be heard and those who braved a look from the top floor of the hospital building could see jeeps and tanks. The Japanese guards then took positions on the top floor, but soon left when it was determined that using this position was futile.

On February 4, Commandant Ebiko presented the camp's chairman with a document freeing the internees. The Japanese were not seen after that. A patrol of the 37th Infantry broke into the prison thinking it was a Japanese ammunition dump; they found 700 military prisoners and 500 civilian prisoners. Meanwhile the Japanese were blowing up and burning

buildings surrounding Bilibid. The responsible commander from the 37th Infantry determined that the prisoners had to be evacuated to escape the fires. The prisoners who could walk started on foot to the north to a shoe factory called Ang Tibay. Since the 37th Infantry did not have enough vehicles to take the non-ambulatory cases, the 1st Cavalry sent vehicles to assist. The prisoners were fed K Rations and returned to Bilibid the next day when it was determined that the fire had burned up to the walls of Bilibid before going out. After about three weeks most of those in Camp #3 were flown to Leyte to await transportation to the United States.



First Red Cross Mail Call in Bilibid Prison after liberation

Recipe Corner

This issue's recipe is from Angus Lorenzen, who was in Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Please send us your favorite camp recipes - anything is better than this!

Soybean Biscuits

By the end of 1943, our rations were steadily decreasing, but the package line was still open, allowing some people to obtain extra food from friends outside the camp. My mother was able to buy some soybean meal from one of these fortunate people, probably using jewelry she had with her when we arrived in Manila. But what to do with it?

She solved the problem by boiling it with a little salt. The resulting mush was tasteless and unappetizing so she spread it about 1/4" thick on a flat surface, and when it dried, she cut it up into small squares. These squares of dried mush wouldn't last long in the hot humid climate, so she decided to fry them.

The problem was that shortening was completely unavailable, but she had learned from other ladies in camp that cold cream was a suitable alternative, so she turned to her last jar of Pond's. If you look at the ingredients in modern cold cream, you see that they are mostly synthetic petroleum products, but in pre-war days, the ingredients were more natural, probably made from good things like lard and whale oil.

The resulting biscuits were edible but had a terrible taste of perfume. For hours after eating one, I'd be burping perfume. No fit of nostalgia would induce me to eat those biscuits in modern times, and I still hate the smell of that perfume.

Word of Mouth

This is a new and continuing column of Book Reviews written by Sascha Jansen, an avid reader of the World War II prisoner experience.

A Lovely Little War – by Angus Lorenzen
History Publishing Company, 2008
www.alovelylittlewar.com

This is a great season for fresh new books with adventures of war and intimate tales of personal intrigue. In a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines, captured through a young child's eyes, a personal story unfolds from a small boy, Angus Lorenzen. As I delved into *A Lovely Little War*, the increasingly contrasting tale of comparative lives, drew me into this young boy's world.

From England to China with his family, then to Manila, Angus Lorenzen, brings to the reader great insight of people living in cultural contrasts and mores on foreign shores. Part of big business in the Chinese concessions, the elder Lorenzen, brought his family into Tientsin's domain of social familiarity; summer on the beach of Peitaho, country clubs, lunches with cards and mahjong, gracious sports of tennis, sailing and golf, household servants, and the immense flow of elegant parties. Among China's strong illustrious history of the arts and political intrigue of their adoptive country's regime, the family gained prestige and popularity. Life was good.

Little thought was given to the Japanese occupation of Northern China until 1941. Then under threat of war, Angus, his mother and sister, Lucy, were on a journey to escape China when their ship was rerouted to the "safe" port of Manila. Their plans were dashed as the Japanese Imperial Army took over the U.S.-owned Philippines as well.

Through the minds eye of a youngster, hell-bent on adventure and new wonders, the reader is carried through the foibles and war time experiences behind the walls of a civilian prison camp for the next three years of the brutal realities of war. After the restrictions of camp life, the horror of the last year of malnutrition and the promise of imminent execution of the civilians, the U.S. fighting forces liberated the Santo Tomas camp on Feb 3, 1945. The freeing of the prisoners by the 1st Cavalry Division's Flying Column only began the fierce, month-long catastrophic fight that was known as the infamous and devastating Battle for Manila.

A first hand witness to WWII history, the young Lorenzen's depiction into the harsh realities of war many years later was summed up in the following statement. *"I no longer look at war with those innocent child's eyes, for battles aren't fought by little lead soldiers. It is so clear to me that it isn't just armies that suffer and die, but the innocent populations caught between the grindstones. For them, the war isn't over when the battle ceases, but lingers and changes their lives forever."*

Triumphantly touching, this wide-awake perception of innocence is written with extreme care, with a vast collection of important childhood memories during the time of evil and conflict sixty four years ago. This book definitely belongs in your permanent library.

The confinement of all civilian enemy aliens in various geographical points in the Philippines and the Far East, became one of the most underplayed, underscored events of WWII.

American Presence in the Philippines

Last summer, a member of the AXPOW Board of Directors wrote a letter stating that civilian ex-POWs did not deserve to be in that organization because they had not been in harms way and could easily have left Asia before the Japanese attacked. Many people wrote back pointing out how ignorant he was of the civilian prisoners' history and peril. 7,000 Americans were prisoners of the Japanese in the Philippines, and many died from enemy action or deprivation in the prison camps. The most comprehensive letter was from Fred Baldassarre, the Researcher/Archivist for the Battling Bastards of Bataan, which is reproduced in part here because it is a great history of the American presence in the Philippines. That AXPOW Director has subsequently resigned, though he continues as a primary officer in the California Department.

Prior to WW II, the Philippines had already been a US Colony/Dependency/Commonwealth since the end of the Philippine-American War, in 1903. In that period, a large number of American civilians migrated to the Philippines seeking their fortune or a new life. In some cases, they were ordered by their country to go to work in some civilian capacity. There were also a substantial amount of soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War who decided to stay in the Philippines and make a new life for themselves in the islands.

As time passed, their lives permeated the very being of Philippine culture and economy. To write about the history of the Philippines, from 1903 to 1941, is to give credit to the American civilians who transformed the Philippines from a Spanish colony into an American expression.

Howard Taft, Leonard Wood and the other early civilian governor-generals of the Philippines purposely engineered the Philippine economy away from the US government and US military, and into the hands of American civilians. Today, we call that the "privatization" of assets and services. Banks, utilities, agriculture, and industry in the Philippines were owned and managed by private American civilians, or United States-based companies. Since Howard Taft, the role of the US government and US military in the Philippines changed from managers to protectors.

Until the start of WW II, the US 31st Infantry Regiment, the Manila Garrison, marched through the Escolta district of Manila, the financial hub of the Philippines, with their drummers beating the cadence of their march and flying their colors for all to see, to assure the American citizens that their investments and lives were safe.

The US Army was present and invincible and the Japanese were caricatures of bow-legged, simian like, near humans, who wore very thick glasses, and certainly no match for a real Army, in spite of their victories in China, at least that was image portrayed to the population of the Philippines.

No one told the American civilians living in the Philippines about "War Plan Orange III" (and neither did they tell most of the military...) and how if Japan attacked, the Philippines and all its inhabitants were to be sacrificed to save Australia, nor were they told that Europe had first priority, and only

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after the war in Europe was under control would any significant effort be made to rescue them.

In the spring of 1941, many grandchildren of the original American settlers had already been born and were in the American school systems in Manila and Bagiuo. These were the second generation of Philippine-born Americans. The families were well rooted in the islands. Along with these original Americans, more Americans continued to arrive in every decade leading up to the start of the war.

Americans and other foreign civilians in the Philippines became doctors, nurses, lawyers, journalists, businessmen, agriculturists, bankers, miners, missionaries, teachers, and clergymen, and they filled every other socio-economic role that existed. They fished the ocean around the Philippines. They farmed the great Haciendas and Estates. They mined the gold, magnesium, and chromium rich mountains of the Philippines. They owned the lumber mills.

Also, American and other foreign civilians were the owners and/or managers of much of the infrastructure in the Philippines. Public transportation, the utilities, the railroads, the telephone service, the tugboats in Manila Bay, the stevedores in the Port Area, and everything else you can think of that you would categorize as infrastructure. This would also include the merchant marines and the airlines that serviced the Philippines.

American and other foreign civilians in the Philippines also worked for large firms and corporations that had large contracts with the US government and military. Companies like Bechtel were constructing new port facilities in Subic Bay and the Cavite Naval Yard. American oil companies were supplying the military with diesel and gasoline, as well as managing the storage and distribution of diesel and gasoline in military property. The ships of the Presidential Lines were on contract to ship troops from the States to the Philippines and then back to the US.

Around 1,000 American and other foreign civilians were direct employees of the US government and the US military. They worked for the Adjutant Generals Office, the US Navy, the Army Transport Service, the Bureau of Docks and Yards, the CPNAB, the US Army Quartermaster Corps, the Philippine Department, and USAFFE, along with many other civil service type positions.

The US government and the US military in the Philippines were completely dependent on the American and foreign civilians who lived in the Philippines. They provided the military with water, electricity, phone service, food, transportation and everything else you can think of, except for military hardware, weapons and ordnance. They were dependent on this civilian community for the over-all health of the economy of the Philippines from which they could draw goods, services, human talent and finances.

By late 1940, it became apparent that conditions brought about by economic sanctions against Japan might result in hostilities between the US and Japan. Many of the concerned businesses and social leaders in the Philippines began having a series of informal meetings. After questionnaires were sent out to all classes of American residents living in the Philippines, it was decided that there was a need to form a committee whose purpose would be to look after the general wel-

fare and protection of American citizens living in the Philippines.

In January, 1941 a large gathering of over 300 American and foreign civilians met in the Manila Elks Club where they formed "The American Coordinating Committee". Their mission was to coordinate the efforts of the US Army and US Navy with those of the High Commissioners Office, the Philippine Commonwealth Government and the American and foreign civilian population.

In July 1941, President Roosevelt ordered Gen. Douglas MacArthur out of retirement and back into active duty. The following month FDR ordered the 100,000 Filipino reserves into active duty, to form 10 new Divisions. The United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFFE) was formed, under the command of Gen. MacArthur, replacing the Philippine Department as the supreme command in the islands and relegating the Philippine Department as the service branch of USAFFE.

The US military began to prepare for war, assisted by the American and foreign civilian residents of the Philippines. Airstrips, QM depots and communication centers were built in all the appropriate locations. The US Air Corps Air Warning Service companies were deployed to protect all the important targets. Additional troops and materials began pouring into the Philippines. Plans were made to build more barracks and more camps to house the new American and Philippine soldiers. There was a mad rush to acquire large quantities of supplies of all different types for this larger American and Philippine Army. The US military enjoyed the full cooperation and support of the American and civilian community. As well as supplies, most of the transportation and communication assets came from this same civilian community.

Many American civilians with ROTC or military background volunteered for military duty. They were given officer commissions and used to alleviate the lack of officers in the Philippine Army's new 10 Divisions. Others simply joined the Army as enlisted men. Civilians with training in engineering were used to bolster and create new engineering companies, battalions, and regiments. Many American civilians simply offered their services and expertise to the military and although they were never inducted into the military, they served in a civilian capacity, performing a large variety of duties, with many of the US military units who went to war.

The military authority evacuated the dependents of US Army and US Navy officers. The first ship left in February and two left in May 1941. The American Coordinating Committee tried to get the High Commissioner and the Military Authorities to issue a declaration and instructions for all American non-essentials, especially women and children, to leave the Philippines and go to the United States. Initially, the High Commissioner, the US Army and the US Navy approved of issuing such a statement. When the moment came to issue the statement, they made a complete turn around and decided against it. American and other foreign civilians were never issued an order to evacuate or even advised to evacuate.

Many surviving members of that civilian community have since written in their memoirs that the High Commissioner's office did everything in their power to prevent civilians from evacuating the Philippines. They ignored all their pleas to issue them passports, telling them if Americans began leaving the Philippines in large numbers, it would negatively affect the

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morale of the Filipinos who were left behind.

I would suggest there were other reasons for the High Commissioner to discourage American and foreign civilians from leaving the country. The civilian's direct and indirect support of the US Army and US Navy, in their preparation for war, made them too important to be allowed to leave the Philippines. A sudden exodus of US citizens from the Philippines before the war would have meant an immediate loss of their services, talents, and money. The US military could not afford to have that happen. This would have crippled the military's preparations for war and the military's ability to execute the war. An exodus of American and other foreign civilians would have led to the collapse of banks and destroyed the Philippine economy.

When the war began, buses from the American-owned Pambusco Bus Line took many of the soldiers to locations throughout Luzon. Heavy trucks from American-owned companies were used as primary movers for the large artillery pieces. In addition to the men who were civilians before the war who joined the military, another large group of approximately 600 American and foreign civilians joined the military on Bataan, Corregidor, and Mindanao.

On Bataan, American and foreign civilians managed and operated the switchboards in Lamao. They worked in the motor pool in Cabcaben. They managed the docks in Mariveles. Civilian engineers tried to preserve the integrity of the Malinta Tunnel on Corregidor, while Japanese artillery fire and bombs rained down on their heads. While in harms way, they performed all other tasks requested of them by the military. On Bataan some were killed in action and some went missing in action, with their remains never recovered. They drew the

same starvation rations as the military and they died of the same diseases as the military.

After the Fall of Bataan, these American and foreign civilians made the fatal March from Mariveles, Bataan to San Fernando, Pampanga, marching in the same columns as the US and Philippine military. They too were beaten, starved, dehydrated, bayoneted, and decapitated by the roadside. They too died and were buried in mass graves in Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. They too died on those Hell Ships. They too were used as slave labor in the Hitachi copper mines and the Mitsui coalmines, under the most horrific conditions. All this, while their wives and children, their mothers and fathers, and their brothers, and sisters languished away in their own prison camps in Santo Tomas, Los Banos, Baguio, and Bilibid, enduring their own horrors and deprivations.

The American and foreign civilians who were not captured joined the guerrilla forces or formed their own guerrilla groups. Walter Cushing, who was a civilian miner before the war, formed and led one of the most effective guerrilla groups in the Philippines. They directly assisted the American forces in retaking the Philippines. Many of these, civilians turned guerrillas, were captured, tortured in Ft. Santiago and then decapitated, or shot, by the Kempetai in the Chinese cemetery in Manila.

The simple truth is this: the American government and military asked, and even demanded, that the American and foreign civilian population of the Philippines "stand up" and assist them in preparing for war, going to war, and executing the war against Japan in the Philippines. This civilian community did so with great honor and distinction, performing beyond expectation. For this, they paid a very dear price. They became prisoners of the Japanese. For this, they were never adequately honored or recognized.

Membership Reminder

Annual BACEPOW Membership for 2009 is due now. Those who are new members after August 2008 are paid up for 2009. If you haven't already done so, please mail your annual dues now with the statement you recently received. Dues are as follows:

AXPOW member.....\$15 Non-AXPOW member.....\$17

The benefits of membership include being part of the only organization specifically serving civilian World War II ex-POWs, plus you receive this newsletter, and the discounts you receive when attending the reunion and the luncheons pay for your membership.

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