



## From the Commander

This year, we memorialize the fall of Bataan and Corregidor and the start of the long and sometimes brutal more than 3 years of Japanese imprisonment for American and Allied civilians. Our reunion in April was both a celebration of life for those of us who survived, and a remembrance of those who gave their lives.

The battles on Bataan and Corregidor placed the U.S. and Filipino military force in a position to defend, without replacements or resupply, against a Japanese force vastly superior in number of men, equipment, and logistics. And yet that small Allied force fought so valiantly that those men delayed the Japanese timetable for the conquest of East Asia, and therefore destroyed Japan's opportunity to invade Australia. With that foothold in the South Pacific, the Allied armed forces were able to mount a counter-offensive from two directions to destroy the Imperial Japanese Army and end the war sooner than might otherwise have been possible.

We owe a great debt to those men, and we memorialize those that did not survive to enjoy the eventual victory. We bow our heads with respect to those who died in battle on Bataan and Corregidor, in the brutal march that followed, in the camps like Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, and Bilibid, Baguio, Los Baños, and Santo Tomas. We mourn those who lost their lives as they continued to fight on as guerrillas and intelligence agents, and those who died in the Japanese massacres in Manila and Los Baños and elsewhere. And we give our lasting respect to those who fell on the long road back, fighting bitter battles on innumerable islands.

To all of these, and many more who contributed, we give eternal thanks for our lives and our liberty.

Angus Lorenzen

## The Other "Internees"

*Approximately 110,000 people of Japanese heritage, now lumped together as Japanese-Americans, were relocated from the West coast in 1942. Historical revisionists cast this as a black mark on America. In the first of this two part series by Lee Allen, he sets out the military imperative for the relocation. In Part 2, he will discuss the development and implementation of the evacuation, conditions experienced by those evacuated, efforts made to ease the burden on evacuees and present day efforts to obscure the historical truth of the matter. For additional information, see Lee Allen's website [www.internmentarchives.com](http://www.internmentarchives.com).*

In late September 1940 a small team from the U.S. Army Signal Intelligence Service broke Japan's highest-level diplomatic code. Shortly after, using only analytic reasoning, the team under the direction of Frank B. Rollett was able to construct a machine analog to the one used by the Japanese to encrypt and decrypt their messages. From then until after the end of the war the U.S. was able to quickly read messages sent from diplomatic posts all over the world. Because this feat of intelligence prowess seemed to be something conjured up by magicians, the highly sensitive information thus gained was cover-named Magic.<sup>i</sup> Magic was one of the most closely guarded secrets of the war and only a select few were given direct access to it. It was not until 1977 that most of it was declassified and made public.<sup>ii</sup>

On January 31, 1941 Message #44 from Tokyo to Washington revealed Japan's plan to establish intelligence operations in the U.S. calling for collection of political, economic and military information. The message included a caution on the use of "second generation" (Nisei; American citizens) and "resident nationals" (Japanese citizens living in the U.S.); "In view of the fact that if there is any slip in this phase, our people in the U.S. will be subjected to considerable persecution..."<sup>iii</sup>

The message further said that, "In the event of U.S. participation in the war, our intelligence set-up will be moved to Mexico.... set up facilities for a U. S. Mexico international intelligence route."

In May 1941, in response to an order to submit progress reports on efforts to establish intelligence networks, two consulates - Los Angeles and Seattle - chose to send theirs by encrypted telegraphic messages, which were intercepted and decrypted by the U.S.

### Los Angeles reported:

"We are doing everything in our power to establish outside contacts in connection with our efforts to gather intelligence material.

"We have already established contacts with absolutely reliable Japanese in the San Pedro and San Diego area, who will keep a close watch on all shipments of airplanes and other war materials, and report the amounts and destinations of such shipments. The same steps have been taken with regard to traffic across the U.S. - Mexico border.

"We shall maintain connection with our second generations who are at present in the (U.S.) Army, to keep us informed of various developments in the Army. We also have connections with our second generations working in air-

# BACEPOW Reunion

By Cindie Leonard

Perfect weather, extraordinary agenda, and the convivial atmosphere of the Embassy Suites in Old Town Sacramento made for a stellar reunion.

On Saturday, Ric Laurence moderated the morning sessions which included presentations made by Carroll Faist, Sascha Jansen, and Bob Wood. John Ream moderated the afternoon sessions provided by Alice Gollin, Wanda Damberg, Tom Dugan, and Jim Zobel.

Carroll Faist's descriptions of his bombing missions over Manila in a B-24 brought back memories to those who were on the ground watching the waves of bombers and their fighter escorts. Those bombers could only mean that American forces were now concentrating on returning to Manila and their hopes were high that they would soon be free.

Sascha Jansen described the BACEPOW History Project, which will soon be soliciting essays from students in the Philippines about the war years. The monetary prizes are an opportunity for members of BACEPOW to pay back for the kindness provided by the Filipinos while they were interned.

The recovery and identification of the remains of those missing in action in all wars was described by Bob Wood. Accompanying him at the reunion were two Air Force members of the joint task force who carry out this mission, and they displayed the kind of artifacts that are useful in helping to identify the remains where DNA and dental records can't be used.

Bill Moule and Eileen Laca read a script depicting the liberation of the Bilibid prison where the civilians from Baguio were moved for their last days as prisoners.

You could hear a pin drop during Wanda Damberg's enthralling recollections of her experiences as not only an internee in Santo Tomas and Los Baños, but also her risky, daring role smuggling medicine into the infirmary where she worked as a nurse in Santo Tomas. Wanda's sharp-as-a-tack precise memory, along with her witty, engaging personality kept the audience rapt with her stories of survival.



Alice Gollin described the process that eligible ex-POWs need to use to claim benefits for disabilities resulting from their time as prisoners. They have a presumptive that assures them of reimbursement for periodontal treatment, but by the time Alice finished describing how to apply, most had concluded that the convoluted process ensured that few would ever be able to navigate the system to gain compensation.

The 44th Tank Battalion led the 1st Cavalry flying col-

umn into Santo Tomas on Liberation Day. Tom Dugan, who served with the battalion and was wounded on Luzon, described the history of the unit.

Jim Zobel, Archivist at the MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, (a veritable human encyclopedia of everything MacArthur) presented an energetic, fascinating talk on the many facets (including the not so savory) of General MacArthur. Zobel's potent presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.



Conversation and spirits were flowing at the Manager's Reception. Our group took over the terrace overlooking the Sacramento River and the Tower Bridge. Families, old friends, and new friends enjoyed a balmy, crystal clear, beautiful Sacramento springtime evening. Just as we thought it could not get any better, we were surprised with a spectacular show of fireworks.

Sunday morning was busy with affinity group gatherings, book signings, socializing in the lobby and the Descendants meeting, which was well attended, productive and purposeful. Photos of the reunion can be found on the new Descendants website: [www.bacepowdescendants.com](http://www.bacepowdescendants.com)

The banquet was a huge success. The Master of Ceremonies, Angus Lorenzen, conducted the smooth flowing, dynamic program which opened with a Color Guard, followed by introductions and announcements, lunch (including Lumpia!), and a phenomenal speech by Rear Admiral (Ret.) Bruce Black, US Navy. Admiral Black artfully wove his personal experiences in the military with the timing and the history of the Japanese occupation in the Pacific during WWII. It was a brilliant presentation summed up with a message of pride and hope for our country. A rousing standing ovation followed.



The reunion was a resounding success, and the only question left was, "When can we do it again?"

## WORD OF MOUTH

*Book Review by Sascha Jansen. This book is available from www.Amazon.com, or Flynn, "Behind the Walls", PO Box 1813, Santa Clarita, Ca 91387.*

### BEHIND THE WALLS

The True Story of a Teenage Prisoner of War

By Rosemary Stagner Flynn

When I started reading *Behind the Walls*, it occurred to me that even though I am very familiar with the core subject of the book, I still looked forward to the read ahead. The intriguing personal story of the pre-war experiences of each family, prior to being captured and put in civilian internment camps in the Philippines, are individual stories like no other. The Stagner family's story prior to incarceration is unique.

Gordon Stagner was working at the RCA Radio Receiving Station in Novaliches, a small town north of Manila in Bulacan Province. He was the Engineer in Charge of the largest receiving station in the Orient, which is the reason he became the hottest interest, not only for the Japanese, but for the US forces as well.

Gordon's young family – his wife Lucy, four children – Rosemary, Gordie, Frank and Larry – lived in the Pasay district of Manila while he was stationed at the RCA property year round. The family spent summers with their father, where Rosemary describes their simple and close family ties with grandparents and cousins as an ideally uncomplicated and fun existence. Their life changed drastically when the Philippines was taken over by the Japanese Imperial Army after Pearl Harbor.

The Stagners were forced to flee to the mountains for safety and hiding. After their capture by the Japanese, their lives became unbearable as they were placed in dungeons in the infamous Fort Santiago. Eventually separated from their father, who was taken for interrogation, they were taken to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp where thousands of other American and allies were held, and where Gordon eventually joined them. Thus began almost 37 months of living under Japanese rule.

Japanese Rule # 1 – "We will not feed you."

This surprise declaration stemmed from the fact that Japan had not ratified the Geneva Convention rules of war, so therefore they were free to enforce their own demands in the treatment of their prisoners.

Rosemary's portrayal of their daily lives throughout the years brings the reader into the unfamiliar rituals of captivity and the harsh realities of a war they had to endure. Their new surroundings entailed standing in endless lines, crowded sleeping spaces with disgruntled fellow captives, confusion of new rules and regulations, unexplained orders meted out by the Japs, and the refusal of the Imperial Army to feed the almost 4,000 civilian prisoners. The expansive world they once knew became miniscule, concentrated and frightening.

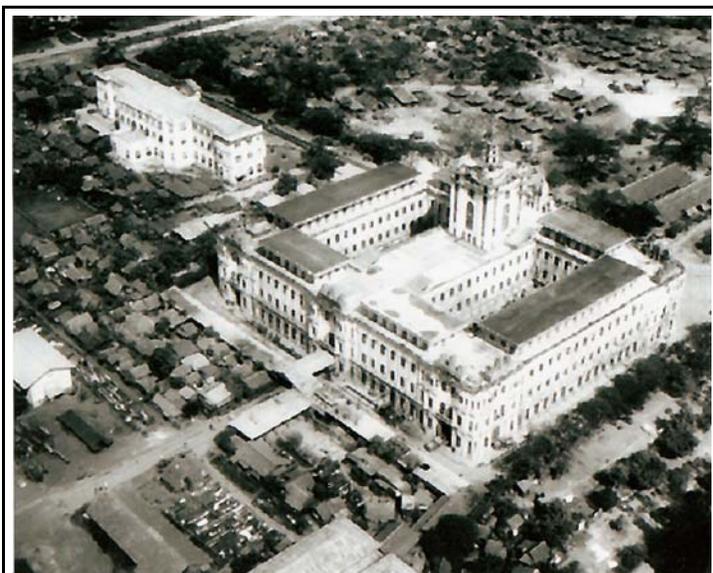
"My 15th birthday came in camp, and with that came adult responsibilities performing camp duties. My first assignment was a nurses' aide in a measles ward." Rosemary continues, bringing camp life into focus, where she explains her father's job was in the Central Kitchen cooking and stirring the pots, her brother Gordy worked the heavy pot lines as a runner, while her mother had toilet monitoring duties.

Typhoons, floods, tropical diseases and great hunger plagued the internees throughout the many months. Some sense of normalcy prevailed as schooling and sports for children continued by dedicated teachers and volunteer coaches. With almost 800 children in the camp at any given time, incarcerated under dangerous conditions, this opportunity to keep the children occupied and out of mischief was welcomed and necessary. The Stagner's good news came with the eventual acquisition of their own small nipa shanty where the whole family could finally assemble together, albeit in a 10ft by 10ft crowded space.

Eventually lack of food took its toll as Rosemary describes in her diary, "Everyone has lost so much weight. We are all pale and listless. Our clothes hang loosely and flap around. Most of us scavenge what we can off the ground at the dining sheds where the women work at peeling camotes. And rumors persist about all sorts of activity in our part of the Pacific. There was much air activity over us, but we weren't seeing any of our boys, only those sporting the fried egg. But, then came bombing raids by our boys. There seem to be more of it each day. The air was heavy with smoke." This was just the beginning of the end of a tortuous 3 yrs.

On February 3, 1945, U.S. tanks arrived, seemingly in the nick of time, as Battling Basic, Old Miss, Georgia Peach, and other massive metal on wheels with the First Cavalry's Flying Column came through the gates of Santo Tomas to rescue the prisoners in their hour of need. Thus began the month long holocaust of the Battle for Manila – a battle which will be forever remembered for thousands of lives taken and damage second only to the destruction of Warsaw. Many lives of prisoners and GIs were taken during the Japanese shelling of Santo Tomas after liberation.

Eventually, the post-war lives of the Stagner family eased into the realm of civility they once knew when they settled in Northern California across from San Francisco Bay. It was many years later that Rosemary Stagner Flynn was prompted to resurrect her diary to share her family's war years with her children. It is our good fortune that she chose to do so.



*The Main Building and Education Building at Santo Tomas crowded around with Nipa Shanties. When liberated, it held 3,768 civilian prisoners.*

## Last Days in Los Baños

*This is excerpted from Margie Whitaker Squires diary, written in the last few weeks after she was transferred from Santo Tomas to Los Baños. It provides insights into the strange happenings in that camp in the days before it was liberated. For a time frame of reference, the 6<sup>th</sup> Army landed at Lingayen Gulf on January 9, 1945, Santo Tomas was liberated on February 3, 11th Airborne Division liberated Los Baños on February 23 in a daring raid, and the Battle of Manila ended on March 3.*

**December 12, 1944** Have been here one week on the spot. We arrived last Tuesday at noon since traveling since 3:10 AM. Breakfast had been served at 1:15 AM: mush and a couple of pieces of hardtack. At 2:30 we were in the plaza in a double line – all 150 of us.

The trip was pretty tough – but we were darned lucky it didn't rain on us. It's rained every day since! At the Tutuban railroad station, a huge flare lit up the area. Some of the guards jumped into a ditch. We were herded on to empty railroad cars like "dumb driven cattle", carrying our suitcases, then sat for two hours before the train finally began to move. A half moon was out and we could see soldiers everywhere.

We were jolted around on the train at the Los Baños junction. Well, we waited down at the station for trucks for several hours, using a very primitive john back of one of the better-class houses of the barrio. No owners were in sight. We were tired and hungry.

Finally a truck arrived and in went the baggage. We hiked to the camp, uphill for about three kilometers, dragging along. At camp, we were met by an enthusiastic throng that had many familiar faces. We were assigned to Barracks 20 – the "Convent". Its been easy getting used to it, the Sisters are so pleasant. Dad was placed in a men's barracks.

I got a job in the Jap camp garden for a week or two, and boy, did I hate it. We were getting so little food that I felt weak all the time – no energy – and everyone was in the same boat. We started a tiny garden outside of our cubicle – mainly talinum.

**January 7, 1945** This day has been the biggest one of

my life so far. The Japs have gone. We're *Free!* I can't believe it yet. I haven't written in this diary for a month – not because I didn't have anything to say. I just didn't care about writing how hungry I was and how being hungry gives one a feeling of indifference.

**January 9** It seems as if it were months ago when we were awakened at 3:45 AM and heard shouting and yelling from the men's barracks. The men sounded so happy that we rushed out to see what was up. Father Reuter came over and told us that the Japs were leaving. We couldn't believe it. I was so happy I thought I'd burst.

At 5:00 we went down to Barracks 15, where the administrative office is located. The flag raising was at 6:15. The whole camp was jammed on the road where the loudspeaker was set up. Our flag was raised. The British flag trailed it up. The Dutch had vainly tried to find their flag. "The Star Spangled Banner" recording with Bing Crosby was played, then "God Save the King". The dawn was beautiful and a couple of American fighter planes flew over the ridge near the camp.

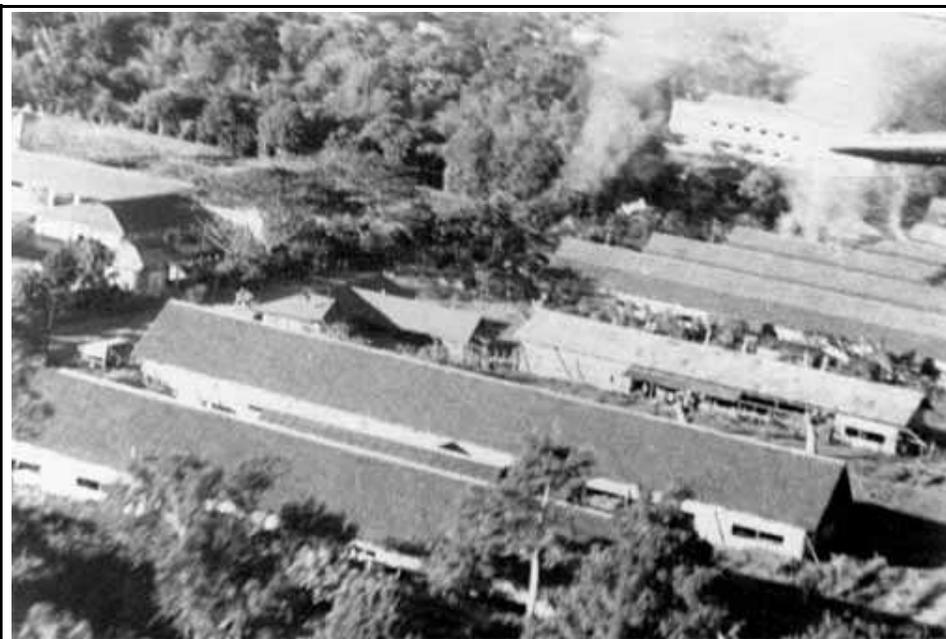
Then we began to catch up on our eating. The Japs sure had starved us. And in meanness, too, because as soon as we took over we got loads of meats, fruits, and vegetables in from outside. We get three meals a day. I was up to 88 pounds. I have a little beri beri, but I hope to get rid of it now.

The boys will be here any hour now. They're on the other side of Laguna de Bay. Bombs are bursting nearby, and the drone of heavy bombers is loud. Hurrah! Hurrah! We're free!

**January 15** The tables suddenly turned again. We were awakened again in the middle of the night to hear a man say, "May we have your attention, please, for an important announcement. Konishi and the commandant have just returned to camp. You are warned to stay in your barracks until 6:00 and to keep away from all sentry posts.

Just after Konishi left the Administrative Committee had handed out 5 kilos of rice per person, to get it out of the bodega in case any retreating Jap parties stopped in. We feasted – and as soon as he returned he tried to starve us.

The Japs ordered the whole camp assemble down at the hospital road at 2 p. m. for roll call – and while we were there stewing in the hot sun they searched the barracks. After waiting 1½ hours, the men of Barracks 11 and 12 got up and went home. The Jap sentries went crazy. They yelled and threatened, but of course they were helpless to shoot (the guerillas are waiting for just that sort of move).



*The Los Baños Camp was built in 1943 to house the overflow from Santo Tomas. It consisted of 20 barracks made from bamboo, nipa and sawali. When liberated, it held 2,146 civilian prisoners.*

Los Baños Continued on Page 5

The next day, 20 women went down to Barracks 3 and demanded to see Konishi. They laid it on. "If you don't give us more food, wait until the guerillas get here!" He let out a bellow and a bunch of Japs rushed in and began shoving the ladies around with bayonets. One said something that stopped the bullying. "If you touch us, wait till the guerillas hear about it." She has a lot of faith in the guerillas – but then, we all do. Then the camp Chairman and committee walked in and told the women to leave and took over. Someone heard, "Mr. Konishi, we know our troops are near – and you had better give us the food we demand".

**January 16** The Japs are getting tough again. Our men last night took 5 kilos per person for everyone out of the bodega. This morning the Japs said they'd shoot Frank Bennett if the rice was not returned. We're returning it, of course.

**February 4** We're still here. It is hard to keep from feeling depressed, and we're so hungry. Two men have been shot entering the camp after having been out. A protest has been written. But they say the Geneva Convention does not apply to us.

Well, we can hear gunfire now, which means a lot to us. I last heard we were at Las Pinas. They sound a lot closer! I haven't seen a Jap plane over for days. Our planes sail around masters of the skies.

I wonder if Santo Tomas is free. That week of freedom last month seems like a beautiful dream. A preview of what is going to happen when our flag goes up for good when They come. Manila is surrounded, but I don't think the internees are free.

**February 8** The marines aren't here yet. I agree with the saying that "the last half hour is the longest." Food is skimpy. The 6:30 curfew is getting me down, too. All in all, however, it could be worse – we manage to keep pretty cheerful.

The past few nights we've seen tremendous fires in the direction of Manila.

Boy, something just happened which raised my morale. A couple of planes just flew over. One came really low, twice over camp. The first time he passed directly over the middle of camp. The second time flew along the boundary, completely circling it.

**February 15** Things are so quiet now you'd never know that the U.S. troops were anywhere in the Philippines. A few days ago we heard a skirmish to the south of us. Heard another one yesterday, the Japs possibly using big guns on the

guerillas.

Saturday we thought the troops were almost here. We found out it was artillery fire around southern Manila, which fell into our hands on Saturday. They say there was tremendous fighting in the Ermita and Paranaque districts. Rumor has it that Santo Tomas went without food from 8 to 11 days. It must have been awful. They say that our troops broadcast to the States that they found conditions there appalling. I'm certainly glad that we're here, even though we'll probably be freed a month later.

Conditions here are very bad. A captain in the Philippine Scouts sneaked into camp the other night with the news of Santo Tomas, the fall of Manila, and landings on Batangas. The Japs found out about the scout. We have to stay in our barracks after 7:00. We'll be shot if we're seen outside.

**February 17** The Philippine Scout has reported our condition by now I hope. This morning two planes dove around right over camp. They stunted over the camp. Those wonderful pilots gave us the will to hold on.

The camp rice will be gone by Monday. Then we'll really starve; we're starving now, but its sort of a chronic ailment. Another man died this a.m., two yesterday. One went completely off his nut. The army must come soon! We've heard no action since the Manila battle!

**February 28** No action, said I – And look where I am now! In Multinlupa Prison in the hands of the U.S. Army. I don't know whether to leave this great day a big blank or write pages and pages about it – February 23, the greatest day of my life.

---

The MacArthur Memorial Heritage Walk is a place of remembrance and commemoration of the achievements of General Douglas MacArthur. To contribute to the MacArthur Foundation's mission of historical preservation and education, BACE-POW has purchased a brick to be included in the walk.



**CALLING ALL Los Baños Prisoners, 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Liberators and Guerrillas involved in the incarceration and liberation of the Los Baños Prison Camp, Laguna.**

Best selling author, Bruce Henderson, who is the author or co-author of more than twenty nonfiction books, is at work on a book about the liberation of Los Baños. He attended our recent reunion, and is interested in interviewing anyone who was interned in Los Baños or who was involved in the rescue operation. If you or anyone you know is interested in taking part in this important, historical project, please contact Bruce. His latest book, *Hero Found: The Greatest POW Escape of the Vietnam War* (Harper), was a national bestseller. An earlier title,

*And The Sea Will Tell*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller and was adapted for a highly rated CBS miniseries. More information about Bruce and his books can be found on his website: [www.BruceHendersonBooks.com](http://www.BruceHendersonBooks.com).

Bruce Henderson

POB 1365

Menlo Park CA 94026

(650) 322-9924

Email: [Bruce@BruceHendersonBooks.com](mailto:Bruce@BruceHendersonBooks.com)

plane plants for intelligence purposes.”<sup>iv</sup>

**Seattle reported:**

“We are securing intelligences concerning the concentration of warships within the Bremerton Naval Yard, information with regard to mercantile shipping and airplane manufacturer (sic) movements of military forces, as well as that which concerns troop maneuvers.

“With this as a basis, men are sent out into the field ... and such intelligences will be wired to you.... For the future we have made arrangements to collect intelligences from second generation Japanese draftees on matters dealing with troops....”

“In order to contact Americans of foreign extraction and foreigners ... for the collection of intelligences... we are making use of a second generation Japanese lawyer.”<sup>v</sup>

Shortly after these messages were intercepted a warning was sent to consulates telling them to use more secure means, such as couriers, for reports in the future. While a large number of operational reports concerning ship movements, aircraft production, etc were later intercepted no further messages revealing sources and methods were retrieved.<sup>vi</sup>

More traditional means of intelligence collection provided a good deal of information concerning the Japanese intelligence efforts and likely response to any future conflict. An October 14, 1941 War Department, Military Intelligence Division Memo, *Japanese Ex-Service Men's Organizations*, reported that the Japanese Military Service Men League has, “7,200 members in Northern California, Washington and Utah.” Membership “includes military age Nisei as well as Japanese aliens,” and that while all give money to the Japanese War Fund, “others [are] engaged in intelligence activities.”

Along with the Imperial Comradeship Society, which is the same in nature as the Service Men League, “these two organizations have pledged to do sabotage (railroads and harbors) in the states mentioned above, in time of emergency....Sixty-nine local units...are said to be carrying on activities.”<sup>vii</sup>

On December 4, 1941, three days before Pearl Harbor, the Office of Naval Intelligence published a 26-page summary on the subject, *Japanese Intelligence and Propaganda in the United States During 1941*.<sup>viii</sup> Among many other issues the report discusses dual citizenship of Japanese children born in the U.S. and their obligation under Japanese law to serve in the imperial armed forces.

The report estimated that, “[O]ut of a total Japanese population of 320,000 in the United States and its possessions...more than 127,000 have dual citizenship”, and that, “more than 52% of American born Japanese fall into this category.”<sup>ix</sup>

It also discusses a number of “military” type organizations including the Southern California War Veterans, Japanese Naval Association, Patriotic Society, Military Virtue Society of North American, Association of Japanese in North America Eligible for Military Duty, and Reserve Officers Club, some of which were known, through the arrest of Japanese agent Commander Tachibana working in California, to be, “supplying him with intelligence information to be sent to Japan.”<sup>x</sup>

Japanese Language Schools were another subject covered by the report. Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii recounts in his book *Journey to Washington* that his teacher taught, “You must remember that only a trick of fate has brought you so far from your homeland, but there must be no question of

your loyalty. When Japan calls, you must know that it is Japanese blood that flows in your veins.”<sup>xi</sup> Inouye was thrown out of school when he objected, but there were more than 39,000 students in similar schools in Hawaii.<sup>xii</sup>

When Lt. Gen. John DeWitt, commander on the West Coast, made an observation similar to Inouye’s teacher, the newspapers quoted him as saying, “A Jap is a Jap”, and he has been excoriated ever since for being a racist.

Other reports from the FBI, The Office of Naval Intelligence and the Military Intelligence Division covered myriad other intelligence gathering activities taking place. Such organizations as the Tokyo Club Syndicate<sup>xiii</sup> and various fishing interests along the West Coast were featured. Those familiar with the operations of overseas Japanese in countries invaded by Imperial forces can well imagine the sorts of intelligence activities being carried on in the U.S. in the run up to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Of course, none of the information in these reports, except perhaps some of the most innocuous and lowest classified, was ever released to the public during the war, and then only as plausible justification for the decision to evacuate the Japanese.<sup>xiv</sup> Much was not de-classified until years later. Magic was de-classified in 1977.

In 1980 Congress formed the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which conducted hearings for two years. The Commission was charged among other things to, “Review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066.... and to review directives of United States military forces requiring the relocation and, in some cases, detention in internment camps of American citizens....”<sup>xv</sup>

With very little interest in, or effort to obtain, intelligence reports from the pre-war period, the Commission addressed the issue of “alleged military necessity” by cobbling together an exposition largely based on information provided by a businessman, Curtis B. Munson, an admitted “amateur at intelligence [who] talked at length to professionals....and reported that they shared his principal views.”<sup>xvi</sup> Also included were various assumptions, opinions, conclusions and claims from individuals whose bona fides to represent the government’s position were questionable.

A reading of the intelligence section of the Commission report, *Personal Justice Denied*, reveals only a couple of brief references to intelligence reports written some weeks after Pearl Harbor. The section also includes the statement, “...there was no knowledge or evidence of organized or individual Nisei spy-ing or disruption.”<sup>xvii</sup>

The Commission was not aware of related Magic intelligence until after publishing its final report, and then the Commission’s general counsel in an addendum argued that the damning claims in the intercepted messages were “puffery” and that nothing in the messages changed the conclusions of the report because no individuals were named.<sup>xviii</sup>

The Commission report alludes to the influence that reports of “agents and sympathizers” in the Nazi invasion of Norway may have played in the minds of leaders. But no mention is made of the role that local Japanese played in every instance of conquest during the early years of the war and how that involvement tended to confirm the worst suspicions of the world charged with American security at the beginning of the war.

Nor, is any mentioned made of the situation that developed on the small, sparsely populated island of Niihau in the

Hawaiian chain after the attack on Pearl Harbor. There, a Japanese plane disabled in the attack made a crash landing. A Japanese national and a Japanese-American assisted the pilot in taking over the island using machine guns from the plane. Later, a local Hawaiian couple killed the pilot, and the Japanese-American committed suicide.

Niihau was a small example, to be sure, but as the 14<sup>th</sup> Naval District Intelligence Officer concluded in his report of the incident: "These facts indicate a strong possibility that other Japanese residents of the Territory of Hawaii and Americans of Japanese descent, who previously have shown no anti-American tendencies, and are apparently loyal to the United States may give valuable aid to Japanese invaders in cases where the tide of battle is in favor of Japan..."<sup>xxix</sup>

Bereft of intelligence reports, ignorant of Magic intercepts and apparently uninterested in learning the truth, the Commission concluded that the exclusion of people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, "was not justified by military necessity." And that, "The broad historical causes that shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."<sup>xxx</sup>

The idea that racism was the prime motivation for the evacuation, even when bolstered by abject ignorance of the military situation, strains credulity. The Commission's investigation and findings were flawed from the start. John J. McCloy, Roosevelt's Assistant Secretary of War, and the sole person alive at the time of the Commission's investigation and who was intimately involved in the Japanese evacuation process from the beginning of the war had this to say in a letter to Sen. Charles Grassley.

"From my personal experience, at the hearings of the commission, I believe its conduct was an horrendous affront to our tradition for fair and objective hearings. ...Whenever I sought in the slightest degree to justify the action of the United States which was ordered by President Roosevelt, my testimony was met with hisses and boos. ... it became clear from the outset...that the commission was not at all disposed to conduct an objective investigation...."

"The commission was, in effect, one erected to build up a case against the propriety of such an order [evacuation of Japanese] and the manner in which it had been carried out."<sup>xxxi</sup>

The idea of forming the Commission has been attributed to Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. The nine members were charged to:

1. Review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order Numbered 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and the impact of such Executive Order on American citizens and permanent resident aliens.

2. Review directives of the United States military forces requiring the relocation and, in some cases, detention in internment camps of American citizens, including Aleut civilians, and permanent resident aliens of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands; and

3. Recommend appropriate remedies.<sup>xxii</sup>

In practical terms the Commission was a launching pad for the movement to seek monetary "redress" for actions taken by the wartime government and subsequent efforts to establish and propagate an "approved" version of a critical period in U.S. history. Once "military necessity" or any other viable reason for government action regarding the Japanese evacuation had been eliminated and base motives for the actions, racism, hys-

teria and lack of political will, were established, it was a clear shot to justification of redress. The charges to the Commission and its subsequent conduct of hearings were bent to that purpose.

An essential feature of the hearings and its findings was simplification. This coupled with reverberating repetition in media and government sources over a period of years led to an unquestioning acceptance of the general conclusion that there was never a threat from Japanese, that racism was the prime motive for government wartime actions and that American institutions failed the people. This in turn led to monetary payments, government sponsorship of a particular version of history and a tendency to punish those who failed to toe the politically correct line.

One such example of simplification is the use of the term "permanent resident aliens." Initially, it is used to describe Japanese citizens living in the U.S. (Issei or first generation who had been denied citizenship under U.S. law). With the declaration of war and the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 2525 after Pearl Harbor, the status of these individuals changed to "enemy aliens" and they were deprived of all rights and protections under the Constitution.<sup>xxiii</sup>

The Commission grouped them together with U.S. born individuals under the term Japanese-Americans and recommended redress payments to them on the same basis as for citizens, even to those who returned to Japan after the war.

There were three groups of Japanese to deal with: The Issei, first generation Japanese citizens, many of whom had lived in the U.S. for some time; the Nisei, U.S. born citizens; and Kibei, U.S. born citizens who had been educated in Japan and as one intelligence expert put it "... are essentially and inherently Japanese and may have been deliberately sent back to the United States by the Japanese government to act as agents....This group numbers between 600 and 700 in the Los Angeles metropolitan area and at least that many in other parts of Southern California."<sup>xxiv</sup>

It was clear from Magic and other sources that a large number of individuals of Japanese ancestry were involved in an intelligence program designed to continue operation in the event of war. The problem was that no one knew who exactly was involved and what situations might evolve from a large base of people who were sympathetic to Japan and its objectives.

There was also the issue of U.S. citizenship and protections afforded citizens. This was particularly important during the initial FBI roundup of suspected Japanese agents in that only non-citizens could be held. U.S. citizens who were mistakenly arrested were immediately released.

Citizenship also became an issue in dealing with mixed families. Some 60% of Nisei later found in relocation centers were minor children of Issei parents.<sup>xxv</sup> That children, who clearly could not be suspected of working for Japan, were evacuated is often claimed to demonstrate that the motive for evacuation was racism, when it really was a humanitarian consideration.

The situation faced by the government after Pearl Harbor regarding Japanese was anything but simple. Security of the homeland was top priority. Figuring out how to best achieve it was the task at hand. And it wasn't as if there was nothing else to do.

*The citations for this article are included on Page 8.*

## Citations for **The Other “Internees”**

i For a first-hand account of Magic development see: *The Story of Magic: Memoirs of an American Cryptologic Pioneer* by Frank B. Rowlett, Aegean Park Press, Laguna Hills, 1998.

ii The Magic messages referred to in this article are digital copies of messages found in *The Magic Background of Pearl Harbor*, Department of Defense, 1977. The U.S. reference numbers were removed so that no confusion would be made when referring to the Japanese message numbers. Intelligence reports are from various government archives and are reproduced in *Magic: The untold story of U.S. Intelligence and the evacuation of Japanese from the West Coast during WW II*, by David D. Lowman, Athena Press, Provo, Utah, 2001.

iii [416:6] The numbers represent respectively the document and page on which the reference may be found at [www.Internmentarchives.com](http://www.Internmentarchives.com). Go to the site, click on Search Archives, scroll to the bottom of the page where it says Jump to Document, insert document number and page number and click on GO. Note: The document numbers and page numbers are archive specific and not related to either book pages or document pages.

iv [416:7]

v [416:8]

vi [418:1-7] Gives examples of operational messages.

vii [426:7]

viii [425:5]

ix [425:20]

x [425:18]

xi Daniel K. Inouye with Lawrence Elliott, *Journey to Washington*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1967, pp36-37.

xii [425:18]

xiii [425:33]

xiv Gen. DeWitt's Final Report on the evacuation, which was picked apart by the Commission and others, was a case in point. DeWitt, who was not cleared for Magic information, included only "plausible" intelligence not necessarily true intelligence.

xv *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*, The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund edition, University of Washington Press, 1997, p. 1. (All references to PJD refer to this edition.)

xvi PJD, 53.

xvii PJD, 60. [427:10]

xviii [ PJD, 473-475] [427:14 and 427:16]

xix [425:69]

xx PJD, 18.

xxi [426:13]

xxii PJD,1.

xxiii Under Special Reports in [Internmentarchives.com](http://Internmentarchives.com) select "Critique of the Smithsonian Institution's Exhibit: 'A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution,'" Click on "Next: Table of Contents" then click on Appendix 5 for a copy of Presidential Proclamation 2525.

xxiv [425:73]

xxv [2:113] Total American Born 0 to 20 years of age, 43,567. Total American Born 71,531. % 0-20 = 61%

## **In Search Of the Perfect Adobo**

Put on your thinking caps and send Sascha Jansen your recipe for the perfect Adobo. She will try them in the BACEPOW test kitchen, and will announce the winner and include the recipe in the next issue.

Sascha Jansen  
213 Grand Canyon Dr,  
Vacaville, CA 95687  
Mabuhayma@aol.com

## **Mark Your Calendar**

BACEPOW will be holding a mini-reunion luncheon in Sacramento on Saturday, February 2, 2013. It will be held at the Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento, where we held this year's highly successful reunion. For those who are coming from out-of-town, we have negotiated a room rate of \$149. This includes room, buffet breakfast and transportation from the Sacramento airport. For reservations, call 1-800-Embassy and mention BACEPOW.

The speaker will be noted author Bruce Henderson who will discuss how he researches his historical books, including his current one on the Los Baños Internment Camp.

Luncheon will be \$34 for members and \$36 for non-members. More information will be included in our January issue, including your luncheon selection. For reservations, send your check to:

Sally Connelly  
#4 Hidalgo Ct.  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

---

BACEPOW Newsletter  
15 Diamonte Lane  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275