The Cavalry Journal

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26th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts)

The United States Cavalry Association

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The aim and purpose of the Association shall be to preserve the history, traditions, uniforms, and equipment of the United States Cavalry, including mounted support units; to sponsor the U.S. Cavalry Association's Museum and Memorial Research Library for educational purposes; and to preserve the literature used by the United States Cavalry throughout its history.

Article IV, USCA Constitution

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The Cavalry Journal is dedicated to
the memory of all Cavalrymen.

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Commissioned by the U.S. Cavalry Association - Artist John Solie's "U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge"

EDITORIAL

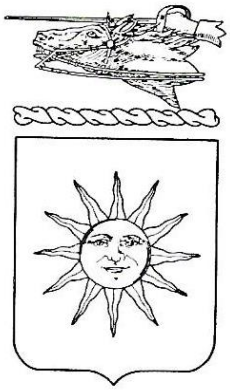
About 4 days ago an idea entered my mind without anything triggering it that I can determine. I attempted to put it out of my mind, but it wouldn't leave. Then I thought, the U.S. Cavalry Association has never done that, at least I have not found in the past almost four years of my work in the Association's archives any evidence of such happening. Then my thinking expanded the idea from only the 26th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts) to include the Association's collection of unpublished manuscripts.

You are the recipient of Digital Issue #1 of The Cavalry Journal. It is the Special Digital Issue of 26th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts) items published in previously printed issues of The Cavalry Journal from the early 1990s to the present.

The Cavalry Journal is a treasure trove of U.S. Cavalry history, descriptions of cavalry equipment, details of cavalry customs and traditions as well as uniforms, and many very interesting cavalry stories.

This initial issue is being electronically delivered to Philippine Scout Heritage Society and Philippine Scout living history organization members whose email addresses I have. I encourage them to forward it on to others they know who would enjoy receiving this information. **-S.R.Y.**

26th CAVALRY (Philippine Scouts)



COAT OF ARMS

SHIELD: Azure a sun in splendor with 12 wavy rays or.

CREST: On a wreath of the colors (or and azure) a black horse's head charging, erased at the neck, bridled and a dexter cubit arm erased, habited olive drab, the hand grasping a sabre at the charge, all proper.

MOTTO: Our Strength is in Loyalty.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The insignia is the crest and motto of the coat of arms. The sample of the insignia was approved 6 February 1924.

This regiment was organized in 1922 from personnel of the 25th Field Artillery (Philippine Scouts) which in turn had been formed from personnel of the 4th Philippine Infantry and the 45th Infantry (Philippine Scouts). The shield is blue for the old Infantry regiments and also for the color of the sea which surrounds the Islands. The sun is similar to the Kataipunan Sun of the Philippine Insurrection. The twelve rays refer to the twelve principal tribes from which the solders of the regiment came, i.e., Illocanos, Cagayanes, Pangasinanes, Zambalanes, Pampangos, Igorots, Tagalogs, Bicols, Ilongots, Samarinians, Cebuanos, and Moros. The crest signifies the dashing spirit of the Cavalry service.

LINEAGE

Constituted in the Regular Army as the 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts) and organized 1 October 1922 at Camp Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands with personnel form the 25th Field Artillery (Philippine Scouts). Surrendered with the I Philippine Corps to the Japanese 12th Army on Bataan, Philippine Islands, 9 April 1942. (2d Squadron redesignated 12th Mechanized Cavalry Troop, 23 March 1946) Regiment, less 1st and 2d Squadrons, disbanded 23 April 1946 at Fort Stotsenburg; 1st Squadron inactivated 31 December 1946 and disbanded 30 July 1951.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Campaign Streamers
World War II
Philippine Islands

DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES (26th Cav cited for period 7 Dec 1941-9 Apr 1942; WD GO 22, 1942)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered LUZON 1941-1942 (26th Cav cited for action on 23 December 1941; WD GO 14, 1942)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BATAAN (26th Cav cited for action on 21 Jan 1942; WD GO 14, 1942)

FURTHER READING

Chandler, William E. "26th Cavalry (PS) Battles to Glory," in three parts, *Armored Cavalry Journal*, Part I, March-April 1947, pp 10-16; Part II, May-June 1947, pp. 7-15; Part III, July-August 1947, pp. 15-22.

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THE LAST CAVALRY CHARGE

By Trooper Ed Ramsey

The last mounted Cavalry Charge, as far as I know took place on January 16, 1942, during the battle of Moron, a village on the west coast of Bataan. I was a platoon leader of G Troop, 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS), commanded by Captain John Fowler; and during the previous two days I had been scouting the jungle area between Moron and just south of Olongapo. I returned to G Troop command post the afternoon of January 15th without encountering the enemy. Troop G was relieved by Troop E, commanded by Captain John Wheeler. Troop E was to act as the Advance Guard for the 1st Regular Philippine Army Division on the 16th of January. Since Captain Wheeler and Troop E did not know the area that I had previously reconnoitered, I volunteered to be attached to Troop E for this operation.

During the day of the 15th, General Segundo, Commanding General of the 1st Regular Philippine Division, had withdrawn his troops a few kilometers to the south of Moron. The following morning, General Wainwright showed up and ordered the Division to move back into Moron, because of its good natural defense position in the form of a river running from Mt. Natib generally westward through the village into the China Sea. Seeing me standing near by, he said, "Ramsey, you take the advance guard". As a side note, General Wainwright as an old cavalryman, knew most of the officers of the 26th Cavalry Regiment, as we were the only seasoned regiment he had. He also knew me as I was playing polo for the 26th the day before war broke out and he was the referee. Captain Wheeler, knowing I was bushed, told General Wainwright, that I had been on reconnaissance and had volunteered to stay with him as I knew the area. General Wainwright said, "Never mind, Ramsey move out". That's how I became involved in what became an historical event that, we obviously were not conscious of at the time.

The command to mount was given. I took command of the advance party, moving northward along the Bagac-Moron Road. I was followed by the remainder of E Troop, who was the advance guard for the 1st Regular Philippine Division. The road was generally north and south about one kilometer inland, and east of the coastline of the China Sea. When we reached the east most edge of Moron, there were three or four paths. That passed for streets. Each running westward from the main road, through the village to a small swamp, which separated the village from the beach area. I turned westward from the road toward the center of the village in line of squads, with the point in front of me.

As we neared the church in the center of the village, we could see some soldiers at a distance moving southward. They seemed to be wearing fatigues and since the village was a solid coconut plantation, we couldn't definitely identify them until they fired on my point, wounding one of the men in the point. I ordered, "AS FORAGERS" and then "CHARGE" by hand and arm signals, as we had no bugler. We charged through to the swamp and after breaking up the enemy column, we went into dismounted action in the center of the village near the church.

It turned out that what we attacked was the advance guard of a force which had landed by boat a little north of Moron the night before. Only the advance guard of this enemy unit, which my mounted charge had disorganized, had crossed the river. I split my dismounted platoon with one squad deployed along the river and the other two trying to mop up snipers. We held on until Captain Wheeler and the rest of E Troop arrived to reinforce us. They arrived on foot, having dismounted after hearing the fire fight. We were relieved that afternoon by the 1st Regular Philippine Division. We had to withdraw along the beach due to heavy sniper fire. The next morning, when things had quieted down, 1st Lt. Cliff Hardwicke was sent in with a squad to recover the horses. Most of the horses were recovered, but Lt. Hardwicke was killed by a sniper.

When Captain Wheeler and I returned to the Command Post after the fight, we discovered that he had been shot through the leg and I had a small mortar fragment just above the knee. We were both so shook up during the battle that we didn't even know that we were hit. Captain Wheeler's wound required hospitalization, mine did not. Captain Wheeler cited me for the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) for the action, but Wainwright's Chief of Staff, who came to Moron during the fire fight, cited me for a Silver Star which was acted on before Captain Wheeler's recommendation reached Headquarters, due to his stay in the hospital.

I would like to make a final comment on this action. As a result of the outstanding training, discipline and courage of the 26th Cavalry Philippine Scout soldier, I only had three casualties in the action. The one wounded in the point, Corpo-

ral Euferio, was cited by me for a DSC and was so awarded.

EDITORS NOTE: Lt. Col. Ramsey received his commission through the R.O.T.C. program, having attended the Oklahoma Military Academy and the University of Oklahoma. After the fall of Bataan, Colonel Ramsey escaped capture and became a guerrilla on the Island of Luzon. He was personally awarded the DSC by General MacArthur for his outstanding contributions to the war effort.

THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN REBELLION

By Jack Wachtel
S&S Philippine Bureau Chief

Four miles to the west the Kansas Regiment was pushing due north to make contact with General Antonio Luna's main force of Filipino insurrectionists, and Colonel John Stotsenburg knew he'd have to hurry the crossing of the Bagbag River, wheel his people west at Pulinan Town on the opposite bank, and head for Calumpit, to turn Luna's flank.

Stotsenburg's 1st Nebraska Volunteers, bloodied at Balsahan Bridge in San Juan del Monte more than two months earlier when Pvt. Willie Grayson's bullet killed a Filipino sentry and started the war were moving into position just below the south bank of the Bagbag here at Barrio Agnaya.

Trooper Grayson's battalion was on the line now.

The big show had begun.

"We're fighting kids", Stotsenburg thought, "but they can shoot. Those rifles, anyway."

But then, how old was Alexander Hamilton when he commanded that battery of Washington's artillery in the Revolutionary War? Eighteen, maybe.

The commanding officer of the 1st Nebraska signaled his second battalion to "move up".

April is one of the really hot months in Bulacan Province.

In another two weeks or so the rains would start and it would cool off some.

Pvt. Juanito Evangelista, 17, a rifleman in Col. Pablo Tecson Ocampo's battalion on the north bank of the Bagbag at Pulinan, squinted along the sights of his Mauser rifle and drew a bead on the tall Americano officer in the ricefield lining the other shore. He squeezed off the round and heard teammate Pabling Maniquis exclaimed, "Patay na! You have killed him."

The 1st Nebraska Volunteer Infantry did not cross the Bagbag River that day.

Capt. John M. Stotsenburg of the 6th U.S. Cavalry temporarily colonel of Nebraska Volunteers in Major General Arthur MacArthur's division of the American forces in the Philippines, lay dead on the field. Evangelista's bullet in his chest.

The date was April 23, 1899.

The Philippine Insurrection off-shoot of the Spanish-American War and a little-remembered chapter in military history, ended for all practical purposes when Frederick Funston and a company of Macabebe Scouts captured General Emilio Aguinaldo at Palanan, in Isabela Province, March 23, 1901. War Department records, though show the campaign covering the period February 1899 to July 1902.

Most of it was guerrilla warfare. But the battle in which Stotsenburg lost his life was a fixed piece. The 1st Nebraska went on to take Pulinan Town the next day while Fred Funston and his Kansans were investing Calumpit Town. That operation, and the one that followed in Pampanga Province, put Aguinaldo on the run. He remained a shadowy but dominating figure until the betrayal at Palanan. For the Americans it was a lesson in tropical and guerrilla war.

Lesson? It was a whole textbook. One which the Japanese had to learn all over again in World War II.

And which the U.S. Army had seen applied anew in the jungles of Indochina.

Even before the official closing date of the campaign, and certainly long before the last Filipino general surrendered in 1907, veterans of the Spanish-American War had organized and established posts in the U.S., Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

They called themselves the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV). And, among their other activities they erected monuments to their heroic dead.

In the Philippines they enlarged the war to included those of their number who served during the difficult period when Filipino riflemen and bolomen were rejecting western civilization with bullet and knifeslash - and the insurrection.

The monument to John Stotsenburg was erected along the Malolos-Quingue road near the spot where he fell. The War Department, in 1903, named its new cavalry post on the Zambales foothills in Pampanga Province Camp Stotsenburg.

Some years later, when the Signal Corps established its newfangled aviation section, the landing field serving the post was named Clark Field.

Since World War II, Camp (or Fort) Stotsenburg and its adjoining landing field have been known as Clark AB - America's largest overseas Air Force installation.

Some 30 miles south the monument to Stotsenburg still stands.

OUR NATIVE CAVALRY

An Article Describing the Filipino Soldier and Portraying the Life of an American Officer in the Philippine Islands

By Capt. George H. Millholland
I.P. and T Officer 26th Cavalry, Fort Stotsenburg, P.I.

A way out at Fort Stotsenburg about 60 miles north of Manila in the Philippine Islands is located one of the most picturesque regiments in our Army.

The 26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts, is composed entirely of Filipinos but officered by officers of the United States Army, with the exception of a few of the native Philippine Scout Officers. It was organized in 1922 with a nucleus of personnel from the 25th Field Artillery, which regiment was made inactive upon the formation of the 26th Cavalry. Its organization is identical with the Cavalry Regiments in the United States with its two rifle squadrons of two troops each, a Headquarters and a Machine Gun Troop and the Band. Each troop consists of approximately one hundred enlisted men.

Mounting the Filipino soldier on our large horses of the States was rather a new and novel experiment, for basically the Filipino is not a good horseman and is not used to handling the large horse. The native horse, or "Calesa Pony" is a very small pony not usually exceeding thirteen hands in height and normally somewhere just a little better than twelve. They are extremely tough and hardy with mean dispositions. Only the stallions are worked in the "Calesa" or two wheeled carriage which can hold about six persons and is usually filled. The one small pony hauls the calesa always at a spanking trot or gallop with seemingly untiring ease. In the southern part of the Island (Luzon) they are universally ridden, rather than driven, and always with a heavy load in addition to the rider.

The first problem in the organization of the regiment was therefore to teach the native soldier to ride, care for and lose his fear of the big horse. This had been accomplished with remarkable success for in spite of the many obstacles to continuous riding in the Philippine Islands, the average Filipino soldier rides nearly as well as the average American soldier and the writer has seen some that he would unhesitatingly class as expert horsemen.

The training year of the regiment is divided into three periods, the school period, the drill and maneuver period and the range firing period. Climatic condition makes this necessary, for during the school season, which is normally the rainy season, it is well nigh impossible to do any outdoor training without being continually soaking wet. Riding is therefore at a minimum, practically no mounted training can be carried out and any mounted work that is done, is done as individuals and usually between showers. The soldier's days, therefore, during this period are spent in English Schools, Machine Gun and Musketry Schools, Indoor Basic Training, some horse exercise, Athletics, Educational and Vocational Schools, Specialist Schools, etc. The afternoons are devoted to necessary fatigue and the upkeep and repair of buildings, stables, etc. This season lasts normally from about June 1st to October 1st.

From October 1st to March 1st is the Drill and Maneuver period. The weather is clear and comfortably cool, especially in the early mornings and the late afternoons. During this season, we must get in our Equitation, Mounted drills, Tactical exercises, maneuvers etc. The Maneuvers take the best part of a month and are generally held at the completion of this period.

The third or range firing period, March 1st to June 1st is spent in Pistol Firing, mounted and dismounted, Saber practice, Rifle, Machine Rifle, Machine Gun and Combat Firing. During this period it is extremely hot in the middle of the day and usually all firing, especially that of the latter three, is done between 6 and 9 A.M. The Filipino soldier is generally an excellent rifle shot due to his ability to "hold". He is not particularly good in "doping"

wind and elevation changes.

All commands and orders are delivered in English, it being specifically forbidden to speak to any soldier in any of the numerous native dialects or to permit soldiers to speak to each other in any language but our own.

There are so many dialects in the language of the Philippines that it is not unusual at all for four or five soldiers in one organization to be unable to understand each other except in English. For this reason the use of one language, our own, must not only be encouraged but must be insisted upon.

The writer has seen many Cavalry Regiments turn out for parades and other mounted formations but seldom has he ever seen the equal of the 26th Cavalry in appearance. They wear the Hong Kong Khaki which is all of one color and always neatly tailored and starched, contrasting very strongly to our multicolored issue cotton uniforms of the States. This fact more than anything else accounts for their splendid appearance. The men are nearly all of uniform height and weight, which also adds to the smartness of any formation.

About sixty per cent of the soldiers of the 26th Cavalry are married and they make their homes with their families in small bamboo-thatched huts located in several little "barrios" or villages a half mile or more from the post proper. They are good clean living men and women and usually the heads of large families. Drunkenness and Venereal diseases are almost unknown in the Regiment. The author recalls an incident of an old First Sergeant coming up to him one morning with his face wreathed in smiles. Upon being asked why he was so happy, he replied that his wife had had a baby last night. When questioned as to whether or not it was first child, he said, no, his thirteenth.

Although the soldiers live upon practically the same fare as we Americans, with the exception of rice which is generally substituted for potatoes, the families live principally upon rice. It is very cheap and their mainstay in food, and they apparently never tire of it. This is augmented from time to time by some native vegetables, a few beans, but practically no meat.

In general Philippine Scout soldiers are paid the corresponding amounts in Pesos as American soldiers are in Dollars. A Peso is the national unit if money in the Philippines and is worth fifty cents in American money or "gold". It is therefore quite remarkable how the large families are fed and clothed upon the relatively small amount of money that they receive. We Americans could probably take a leaf out of their book when it comes to real economy.

The Filipino soldier is basically an excellent athlete in all sports not requiring actual physical contact, although this fact might seem to be belied by the several excellent boxers produced in this Regiment in the recent past. They are agile in body but slightly slower in their head work, and as a rule always in good condition due to their temperate living.

Their favorite mass sport is Volley Ball, although some few become excellent baseball players and occasionally there is developed a soccer team which would compare favorably with collegiate teams of our own country.

Recently the Regiment has received orders to convert the Machine Rifle Platoon of each Troop into a Machine Gun Platoon of four guns, which entails an additional training hardship, for not only must it function as a Cavalry Regiment but also, practically a Machine Gun Regiment.

The service of an officer in the Philippines is pleasant due to the ease of control and the splendid discipline of the Filipino soldier. The climate is sometimes a little trying, but serving in "the islands" is an experience well worth while to any officer.

ESCAPE FROM THE DEATH MARCH

By Trooper Eliseo V. Mallari, Staff Sergeant
Headquarters & Service Troop, 26th Cavalry (PS)

The starting point of the Death March was Mariveles, a town at the southern tip of Bataan, not far from where my squadron had dispersed after the surrender. The route was the narrow and dusty road which ran along the eastern coast of the Peninsula to San Fernando, a distance of some 75 miles. Surrendering troops coming down from the mountains by the trails leading to the sea, joined the March at various points. Those who started at Mariveles suffered the most, especially the troops who had taken part in the Battle of the Points. They had to march southward almost 15 miles before they reached the point of evacuation at Mariveles, and they were near exhaustion when they got to the main road.

My men and I were spared the torture of the March from Mariveles because we managed to get a ride in a truck heading north. But from Balanga to San Fernando during the March, I witnessed un-

believable atrocities. About 70,000 men, many of them sick and wounded, made the Death March. Thousands never reached the end of the route. It was pitiful to see the marchers staggering on the road, unable to stand on their feet, because of weakness, sickness, starvation or thirst. Others were shot, bayoneted, beheaded or buried alive. The road was strewn with bloated corpses.

There was no set of cadence or system of organization for the March. Japanese guards at selected points tormented the marchers along the way. They did not know how far the marchers had traveled, nor did they care. My group joined the horror at Balanga, after having witnessed two executions on the trail. We spent two days at Balanga, only to witness more tortures. We were marched to a barren field, and ordered to remove our headgear and to sit bareheaded in the blazing sun for four hours without water. In the Philippines April is the hottest month of the year; the intense heat was driving us out of our minds. We survived the bullets on Bataan but we were afraid we would not survive the bayonets, hunger and thirst. The Japanese made no provisions for feeding us. During the two days at Balanga we were fed only once - it was a ball of sour rice the size of a man's fist, the kind of spoiled rice ordinarily given to hogs.

When the guards weren't looking, I sent two of my men to scrounge for food. Out in the bushes they reached an abandoned farm, but all they could find was a little amount of palay (unhusked rice) which we divided among us, each man getting three handfuls. To husk the palay, we first pounded it in holes dug in the hard surface of the ground and then blew off the chaff as we let the grain dribble through our fingers. Then we cooked the grain in our canteen cups. It helped to keep us alive.

After we left Balanga we saw gallant Filipina women doing their best to give the marchers food and water. As we approached Orani, two American soldiers made the mistake of accepting food from one of the women. The sentries pulled them out of the formation and bayoneted them to death and the women were beaten with a stick. At Orani we were herded into pig sties to sleep. Then it rained heavily, but we slept soundly in spite of the filth and downpour. As the field was flooded, we sought higher ground. My men and I took refuge on top of a knoll. Staff Sgt. Juan Varela and I sat on top of that knoll, sitting back to back, hugging our knees. As I fell asleep, I lost my balance and fell into the water; so did Varela, who fell into the water on the other side of the knoll. We were wet and cold the rest of that night.

Before resuming the march that morning, I saw an American medical officer, still wearing his red-cross armband, being buried alive, for giving aid to the American and Filipino wounded. I also saw a heavy-set Negro sergeant whom I thought was Sgt. Mitchell of the quartermaster at Fort Stotsenburg. Because of his excessive weight and weak body, he could not keep pace with the rest of us. The Japanese jabbed him in the back with bayonets and when the sergeant dropped to the ground, a sentry dragged his body to the side of the road, his body still wiggling like a dying frog that was hit in the head.

From Orani to the barrio at Parado, I happened to spot a watermelon rind along the highway which I grabbed. Three other enlisted men also saw the rind, but I got there first. Unable to get the rind by force, the hungry men pleaded, "Please, sir. Give us part of it." Breaking the rind in halves, I held one portion for me. At Parado, as we entered a vacated lot owned by a rich sugar baron, Don Ricardo Rivera, the men dashed for the sugarcane field nearby and helped themselves. The Japanese did not like the idea of sugarcane being taken into the camp, so they started bayoneting, shooting and beating their captives whether they were bringing in sugarcane or not. Two of my men were beaten while they had the sugarcane in their hands.

At Lubao we were herded into a sheet-metal warehouse and we were so crowded there was no room to lie down. A number of men standing passed our from suffocation. I was growing weaker and weaker from hunger. I had not eaten for five days, except for the watermelon rind and some "gulasisan" (wild grass fed to hogs). I knew that before long I would be too weak to travel and would be bayoneted or buried alive like the others who collapsed on the road. There was only one thing to do - escape. Still, I was not sure I could make it until daybreak because many were dying from lack of fresh air. From the help of a prayer, I managed to tear the metal sheet with a four-inch rusty bolt picked nearby. After cutting a hole about three inches, I stuck out my nose to breathe the fresh air. My men shared the fresh air with me and they came to life. The following morning we moved out of the warehouse for the march to San Fernando. Those who died from suffocation were not noticed until the shed was emptied and the dead slumped to the concrete floor.

I made my mind to escape, but I was thinking of the remaining 15 men in my group who had shared the hardship and who kept pace with me and endured hunger. After talking to them, they realized the condition I was in from weakness, and

approved my plan for escaping, and agreed that everyone would work individually for survival. I gave each of then ten pesos from the money I managed to hide in the seam of my booted coverall while the Japanese stripped me of my jewelry, watch, pen and some clothing. Some of the men succeeded in escaping while the rest did not. They ended up at the Camp O'Donnell prison camp.

Incidents at Labao would best illustrate what men would do for a drink. Men in our group would fill their canteens from stagnant pool in a rice paddy. In that pool was a dead soldier filled with "kangkong" leaves and worms crawling all over the corpse. There were also an American corporal who was out of his mind, screaming for water. A Japanese officer who saw the American filled a US canteen cup from nearby ditch and held it out to him, apparently to tease him. As the American reached for the water with trembling hands, the Japanses officer turned the cup bottom side up. The corporal threw himself prone to the ground and buried his dry-lips in the bubbling water trying to suck up a little of the water before it sank into the ground.

Still not satisfied, the officer then ordered the guards to drag the American prisoner out of the formation and bury him alive. The two Japanese soldiers promptly obeyed and dumped the American in a ready-made trench under the bamboo grove. The American corporal was prevented from climbing out of the pit by the two Japanese soldiers who kept jabbing at him with bayonets while two Filipino captives shoveled the dirt into the pit at gunpoint until the American was completely covered. The loose soil was still moving.

At Barrio San Vicente, two miles west of San Fernando, I had the golden opportunity to escape. There was a commotion when thirsty prisioners ran toward the irrigated rice paddies for a drink of water. In the confusion, I spotted a group of stilted nipa houses concealed by thick gardenia hedges. While the sentries were busy bayoneting and shooting at the thirst-crazed captives on the other side of the road, I slipped through the gardenia and painfully began climbing the bamboo ladder of the nearest house. As I climbed the last step, my strength gave up and I collapsed. I was far enough inside so that my body was hidden by the sawali wall, but my booted feet still extended into the doorway. I realized that I was in great danger, but I could not drag myself farther into concealment. I just lay there, completely helpless.

A few seconds later, I heard a commotion below. Looking through the slatted bamboo floor, I saw a Philippine Army soldier who apparently had escaped and collapsed under the house. A Japanese sentry came into view and thrust his bayonet through the soldier's back. Then he stepped on the victim's neck, withdrew his bloody weapon and wiped it clean on the dead man's clothing. The only word I heard was "Aguy" (Visayan for Ouch). It was pitful to see this dying man, his body wiggling tremendously. Fortunately for me, the Japanese sentry did not go upstairs. The March resumed. I had made good my escape from that never-to-be-forgotten Death March.

ANTEBELLUM LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES

By General Hamilton H. Howze, USA (Ret)

In 1938 we departed for the Philippine Islands, leaving our gallant Barney in a kennel with a huge outdoor run at Fort Oglethorpe. One old Army transport of 7500 tons took us from New York to San Francisco, taking nearly two weeks; another, the Grant, slightly larger but even more venerable, used 28 days (cruise speed, 11 knots) to take us to Manila. Our cabin was cramped, the days passed slowly, and the salt-water showers left our bodies sticky and unrefreshed. Honolulu and Guam were welcome respites, however, and the meals served on all the old lumbering transports featured best-quality roast beef and were uniformly excellent. We got what exercise we could by calisthenics on the top deck. A welcome party, with rum cocktails and exotic fruits, awaited us in the old Army and Navy Club in Manila.

We were posted to the 26th Cavalry (PS) at Fort Stotsenburg, about 65 miles north of Manila. Philippine Scout regiments had native Filipino enlisted men, American officers. Service in those regiments approximated that of the English in prewar British India; in the vernacular, those were "the days of the Empire." Except when we were in the field on extended maneuvers, regimental officers went to the troop barracks at 7:30 am. The morning we occupied with various tactical exercises, marksmanship, saber drill and similar training, after which came "stables', when the horses were groomed, watered and fed. At 11:30 we attended Officers Call, presided over by the regimental commander, during which the business of the day

(there wasn't much) was discussed. And that was the workday.

Lest anyone think this represented a neglect of duty I should explain that the afternoons of the enlisted men were devoted to individual training and housekeeping, which chores were quite adequately supervised by the experienced and competent NCOs. Our sergeants averaged 22 years of service, our corporals about 15.

As is still true, most Filipinos were poor, so service in US Army Philippine Scout units was very popular. The regiment had a long waiting list, allowing us to pick and choose among applicants for enlistment. Rarely did a soldier fail to apply for reenlistment, and discipline was no problem at all. Soldiers occasionally would complain, very politely.

The afternoons of an officer were occupied by working polo ponies and jumpers, or by polo practice scrimmages, or by tennis or golf. Tough life. On Sundays we sometimes had informal jumping competitions, sometimes more formal horse shows, and nearly always, formal Polo games - the last quite often in Manila because that's where most of the military and all of the civilian teams were located. Some of the younger ladies, my wife among them, participated in all, save the polo.

I was still a first lieutenant, with a monthly pay of $173 plus about another forty in allowances. From this we paid (and fed) a cook, a houseboy, and a lavandera, or washwoman, all full time; we also had a Filipino soldier horse orderly, and the services of gardeners provided by the post. All were excellent, extremely loyal and trustworthy servants, partly because such employment was much in demand.

We lived in a tropical bungalow without, of course air conditioning. It was delightful, despite the intense tropical heat. The front and one side of each bungalow had large screened porches, and under the wide overhand of the roof hung a string of broad droopy-leaved airplants, providing shade without seriously impeding air flow. The windows were perhaps eight feet wide and six high and were never closed except during the occasional typhoons of the two-month rainy season, when the rain sometimes blew horizontally. Each window could be closed by a single sliding panel consisting of barely translucent seashells set in a wooden matrix. There was not a pane of window glass in the house.

Though the bungalows stood on low concrete piers with, at their tops, metal troughs kept filled with oil, bugs still made their way in. It was a standing joke that when the typhoons blew the termites had to hold hands to keep the house together.

When one arrived in his bungalow from drill or tennis or polo he simply threw his clothes on the floor and popped in the shower, the houseboy immediately scooped up the stuff and delivered it to the lavandera. She returned it, washed, starched as appropriate and ironed, the next day. Because of the humidity one never hung up a damp garment: it would mildew within 24 hours, even though we kept an electric bulb glowing in every closet. An unattended sweaty pair of boots would turn green almost as one looked at them.

A very few quarters had constrictors of modest size in the attics; ours didn't, and we didn't miss that amenity though the snakes were said to be good for rats. But we had no rats. Every household however was occasionally visited by a bat or two, upon which a regular drill was put in motion. Ladies having strong objections to bats got on a bed and lowered over it, by the use of a light rope and pulley, a large mosquito netting. This, for reasons of health, not of bats, was a mandatory arrangement for every bed. The lady being thus safely enclosed the man of the household, joined by his delighted children or perhaps by a neighbor, armed themselves with tennis rackets and made a game out of removing the offending bat. Sometimes the players would also remove the chandelier.

When we arrived in 1938 the Philippines had been a commonwealth for three years, with a Filipino President, Manual Quezon, and an American Governor General. In Manila the American presence was very apparent and dominant; and everywhere, whatever the official arrangement, we were still the colonists and the Filipinos the colonials. So far as I could determine there was no antipathy between the two; in contrast with what obtains today we could go anywhere without danger of any unpleasantness, except perhaps for the very remote areas inhabited by what were known as the tribes: people in breech-cloths who hunted with bows and arrows, and who had very recently graduated from the status of headhunters.

A tribe of negritos, the Balugas, lived in the hills just behind Fort Stotsenburg. Pygmies clad only in loin cloths, the men rarely reached the height of four feet six inches. Quite harmless, they seemed always covered with ash and smelled freadfully, living on camotes (a wild sweet potato) and the deer and wild chicken they killed with their arrows. I occasionally rode up into those hills (the lower slopes covered with cogan grass, often six feet high, the high elevations with jungle) sometimes with Mary along; only once or twice did we

see any sign of cultivation, and those few were confined to perhaps six or eight square yards cultivated with a sharp stick and planted in camotes.

I think we Americans were good colonists. We had much trade with the Philippines to the benefit of both countries, but we operated the territory at a net loss to ourselves; there was essentially no exploitation of a subject people. Our greatest favor to the Islands lay in our establishment of a good, country-wide school system which taught English as a mandatory subject, for the archipelago contains some 7000 islands of which many hundreds are occupied, and the people use perhaps a hundred mutually unintelligible dialects. Without English, the Philippines would be impossible to govern - and of course even with English the government is currently having much difficulty.

There were and still are many aristocratic Spanish families in Manila. Residents in the islands for many generations, their big old-fashioned houses lined Dewey Boulevard, bordering the harbor. Many Spanish were enormously wealthy and moved in a society of their own, though there had obviously been some intermarriage with Filipinos. They got along well enough with most Americans, but at one point were sufficiently unhappy with their treatment at the old Manila Polo Club that they built another and grander club nearby, called the Tamarao Club. "Tamarao" is the native word for the wild water buffalo; called the carabao in its domesticated state, the water buffalo plows the rice paddies and is therefore an essential to life in the PI.

Manila had fine horse shows yearly, in which my wife and I regularly competed. We were lucky enough to have the use of two excellent jumpers, Nick Toney and Speed King, and won much silver and many ribbons. Usually as a member of the 26th Cavalry Team, of which I was the captain, but sometimes with a civilian one, I played lots of polo in Manila, at both clubs.

The Tamarao Club had been financed largely by the Spanish Elizalde family of four polo-playing brothers: the eldest "Mike', was then the Ambassador to the United States; the other three were Angel, Manual and Manolo. Angel (pronounced Anhel) and Manual were very formidable players; Manolo, the youngest, only fair. But all were mounted beautifully on extremely expensive horses imported from abroad. When three Elizaldes and a fourth player, all superbly mounted, were on the field no other civilian team, and no Army regimental team (on much slower horses) could beat them.

For competition then the Elizaldes imported the "Californians" who remained for several years. The Californians were high goal players: Peter Perkins, Bill Andrews, Lewis Brown, and for awhile Earle Hopping played; they called him Ho-Ping, and thought he was a Chinaman.

The Californians were of course beneficially employed in various Elizalde businesses. One of them described his function as that of visiting the rope factory once a month to make sure the clock hadn't fallen off the wall.

Though no Army regimental team could do it, an Army picked team could and did occasionally give the Elizaldes or the Californians a run for their money. I was a member of such teams, having by then a four-goal handicap. For me this was great polo and a great thrill. I also umpired a number of games between the Californians and the Tamarao Club, meaning the Elizaldes: this was because I wasn't afraid of Angel, a good player with a foul temper, a contempt for the rule of polo and a profound dislike of umpires.

Perhaps my greatest satisfaction in polo came from play on the 26th Cavalry Team that came within an inch of winning the Ten Goal Championship on the Philippines - the biggest tournament of the two years of our service there, in which virtually every club had one or more teams. Our other players were Captain Trapnell and Lieutenants Alger and Haines. Two of the four eventually achieved, many years later, four star rank; the two that didn't had been captured, one in the Philippines and one in Africa - thus being deprived of the rapid promotion that came during the war. Even, so, they each ultimately achieved the three stars of a lieutenant general.

During our tour in the PI, General Douglas MacArthur, already retired from the US Army but still relatively young, was the commander of the armed forces of the Philippines, then being expanded and modernized under his direction. He was very highly regarded by President Quezon, the US Governor General and other high officials. He lived with his handsome young wife and small son in a suite embracing an entire floor of the Manila Hotel, on the Luneta - a tremendous public area of lawn and flowers near the harbor - across from the Army-Navy Club. I was not exactly on his level of society, so I never laid eyes on him.

But I came to know, very casually, an odd sort of fellow of Spanish blood who amused himself by dressing up as an Indian Maharaja. Thus caparisoned he would loaf around the bar at the Tamarao Club awaiting the introduction to him, by his co-conspirators, of visitors or new members, to whom he'd tell tall tales of the current life and times of a Maharaja. I'm quite unable to explain why he derived pleasure from this charade. That's

just the way it was.

On day this bogus maharaja, in his most elaborate robes, called at MacArthur's office; much impressed by his grand appearance, the secretary told the general that he was there on a visit from India, and the general told he to let him right in. We don;t know further details of this encounter, but when MacArthur's American military aide appeared, somewhat later, the general told him to find out where the Indian potenate was staying in Manila and to arrange a return call on him by the general.

The aide, of course, knew all about this clown at the Tamarao Club and under the circumstances of this new dilemma, we may assume, seriously contemplated resignation from the Army. I think the matter was resolved by a fortuitously early departure of a ship bound for Calcutta.

Just before our two-year Philippine tour was up my wife and I made a delightful trip, by the Dutch ship Tjinigara, to the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia. This was October 1940; the Germans had already overrun much of Europe.

In Batavia (now Djokjakarta) we called on Ambassador Foote, an experienced US professional foreign service officer. Mr. Foote told us in some detail of a Nazi-managed plot among the substantial local German population in the Dutch Indies, plus some disaffected Malays, to overthrow the Dutch colonial government. One holiday morning about a week or so before the opening German attack on Western Europe, a native clerk in Batavia received a long coded message from Berlin addressed to the senior German diplomatic officer there. The clerk was suspicious, and tried to get in touch with his own government, but could find no one, during the holiday, in the government offices. On his own hook, then, this man simply filed the message without delivery - an obviously illegal act.

It turned out that the message contained elaborate last minute instructions for an intended German coup in the Dutch colony, a coup that was to be triggered by a signal; the mispronunciation of the name "Berlin" on German language radio broadcasts heard in the Indies. Ambassador Foote was full of praise for the cable clerk - not foreseeing the overrun of the Dutch Indies by the Japanese Army a few years later. It might have been easier on the Dutch living in the Indies had the German coup succeeded.

However that may be it is interesting now, many years later, to speculate on the possibility that that unknown cable clerk changed history. If in 1940 a German coup had overturned the presiding government in the Dutch East Indies - an enormous area rich in natural resources - what would have been Japanese reaction to such a European incursion into what the Japs chose to call their "East-Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere"? This "sphere", of course, the Japanese Empire planned to dominate altogether for its own purposes; it was not something to share with Hitler, and might have interfered with the later (1941) alliance of Germany and Japan.

In 1940, also, the United States generally was looking on the new European war as something from which we'd vastly prefer to stand aside. Our alarm at a German intrusion into the South Pacific, the cruising area of our Asiatic fleet, might have resulted in our earlier rearming and possibly our earlier entry into World War II. But the little cable clerk preempted all that.

My wife and I enjoyed service in the Philippine so much that we would almost certainly have "extended" - that is, have elected to remain a third year - were it not for our Irish setter, Barney, awaiting our return in the pen at Fort Oglethorpe. So we came home on the last boat carrying Army officers - thereafter the officers stayed put while their wives and children were evacuated in the face of an increasing possibility of Japanese invasion. Because we came home I was not in the 26th Cavalry when the Japanese invaded; because we came home I missed an appalling, hopeless, very inadequately-supplied campaign against the Japanese forces, and a 50% chance of being killed or dying (from starvation, or drowning at sea in a destroyed Japanese prison ship, or outright execution) while a prisoner of the Japanese. Many close friends, in the 26th Cavalry and in other units, had one or more of those experiences, including my West Point roommate Harry Packard, who died in the stinking hold of a sinking Japanese prison ship on the way to Japan. I missed all that because of Barney.

I am still saddened when I read or think about the campaign that killed so many of my close friends, so many classmates and so many of the gallant troopers that fought so valiantly in the 26th United States Cavalry, Philippine Scouts.

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin P. Ramsey, USA-Ret.
by Bob Seals
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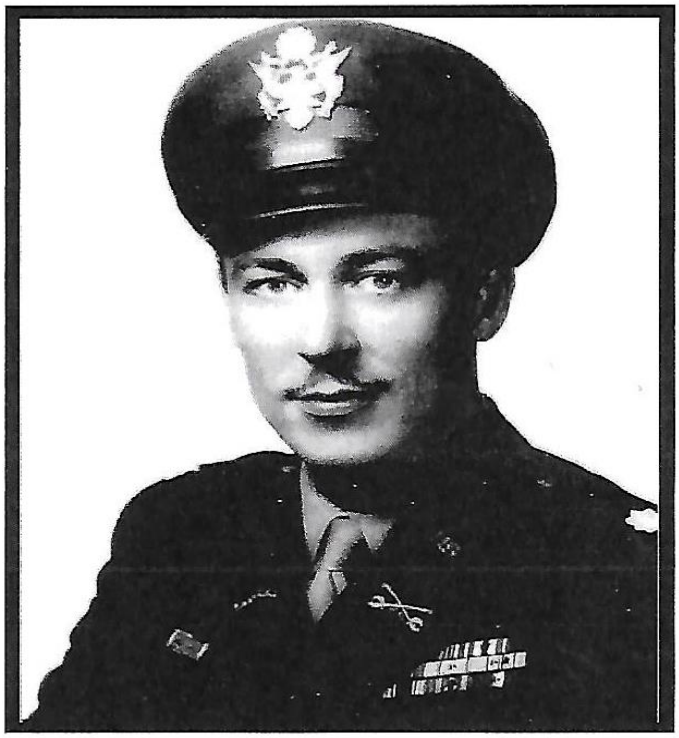
"I brought my arm down and yelled to my men to charge. Bent nearly prone across the horses' necks, we flung ourselves at the Japanese advance, pistols firing full into their startled faces. A few returned our fire, but most fled in confusion, some wading back into the river, others running madly for the swamps. To them we must have seemed a vision from another century, wild-eyed horses pounding headlong; cheering, whooping men firing from the saddles."

This meeting engagement on Bataan at the village of Morong, led by then First Lieutenant Edwin P. Ramsey on 16 January 1942, was to be the last horse-mounted charge by a U.S. Army cavalry unit. Surviving early days of defeat and disaster, Ramsey was destined to have one of the most challenging and interesting wartime careers of the Pacific Theater during World War II. His four years of combat, mostly spent behind Japanese lines, reads like a pulp fiction novel or a Hollywood screenplay. An illustrative example of an interwar generation of hard-charging Cavalry officers who worked hard and played hard, Ramsey rose to the occasion after the Japanese invasion of the Philippines began in December 1941. Refusing to surrender on Bataan in April 1942, he led tens of thousands of guerrillas on Luzon in one of the most successful resistance campaigns of the war against ruthless Imperial Japanese Army occupation forces. His remarkable career encompassed the end of several storied American military institutions, including the Philippine Scouts and the Army's horse cavalry, while helping to lay the doctrinal foundation of an Army branch not born until after the war, the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Edwin Price Ramsey was born in Carlyle, Illinois, on 9 May 1917, but spent his formative years growing up in Kansas. Visits to an uncle's farm awakened a love for horses and riding and gave him direction in life. Like so many others during the Great Depression, Ramsey's family experienced significant economic hardship, an existence further exacerbated by the tragic death of his father. Deeply concerned about his aimlessness, his mother suggested that the teenaged Ramsey enroll in the Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) in Claremore, Oklahoma. Popularly known at the time as the "West Point of the Southwest," OMA, by 1936, was a state-sponsored institution with a highly rated and respected senior level Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, one of only three junior colleges in the nation to have a branch-specific cavalry program. OMA also had one of the best intercollegiate polo squads in the nation, the



"Lieutenant Colonel Edwin P. Ramsey, shown here in a 1946 photograph, was assigned to the 26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts) prior to the United States' entry into World War II, and fought against the Japanese when they invaded the Philippines in December 1941. After the surrender of American and Filipino forces on Bataan in April 1942, Ramsey led guerilla forces until the liberation of the Philippines in 1945 (Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Edwin P. Ramsey, USA-Ret.)"

"Flying Cadets," with legendary local humorist and resident Will Rogers being one of the collegiate team's biggest supporters.

In a timeless military school rite of passage, the young Ramsey was to be sorely tested at OMA by the "rabbit" system and overzealous upperclassmen armed with wooden paddles. Fighting back against bullies and the inevitable hazing of the day, Cadet Ramsey earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike by refusing to inform upon others. Learning to properly ride and care for horses, he became a superb horseman and a skilled member of the OMA varsity polo team. "Polo was the game I was made for," according to Ramsey. It also served as the perfect venue for training would-be cavalry officers in the finer arts of decision making, teamwork, and aggressive leadership. This ancient sport had an undeniable hold upon the officer corps of the interwar Army, but polo was a dangerous mistress indeed, with players at times killed or crippled.

Graduating from OMA in 1938 as a second lieutenant in the Cavalry Reserve, Ramsey was thoroughly imbued with the cavalry ethos, being the "□ elite□ of the service, [with] mobility, shock, and speed□ we knew that we were better than anyone□ we had to be better□ to get in ahead of everyone else, the discipline to do our job, and the brains to get out alive." After graduation from OMA, polo continued to be a passion of Ramsey's and influenced his decision to enroll in the University of Oklahoma Law School, since the university had an active polo squad. However, the near death of his adventurous sister in a plane crash prompted an early withdrawal from law school to care for her.

With global war already a reality, and deeply concerned about appeasement in Europe, Ramsey volunteered for active duty service. In 1940, the day of the horse had not yet ended in the Cavalry. Assigned to 2d Squadron, 11th Cavalry Regiment (Horse), in February 1941, he was stationed at Camp Moreno, California, a mountain and cold weather training site near the border with Mexico. With his considerable horsemanship skills, Ramsey was assigned duties as a remount officer, training both raw mounts and draftees who were beginning to flesh out the skeleton of the woefully under-strength Regular Army cavalry regiments of the day. Many vestiges of the Old Army remained. "We wore riding breeches and high boots, and our round campaign hats were tilted at a meaningful rake across one eye, the strap stretched beneath the chin. I was twenty-three years old, proud and invincible," remembered Ramsey.

Less than enthused with the cold weather of Camp Moreno, Ramsey jumped when volunteers were requested for the 26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts) in the then Commonwealth of the Philippines, commonly known at the time as the "Country Club of the Army." Another plus for Ramsey was the fact that the 26th Regiment also had one of the finest polo teams in the Army.

The 26th Cavalry Regiment was, in many respects, the elite unit of one of the most unique institutions of the interwar Army, the Philippine Scouts. Formed in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Scouts were authorized by the Army's Philippine Department in 1901 and proved to be extremely effective during pacification operations throughout the islands, utilizing their knowledge of the native language and local geography. Organized into company-sized units with Filipino enlisted personnel and U.S. Army officers, the Scouts were tough and reliable, with two earning the Medal of Honor.

After World War I, Philippine Scouts were the mainstay of the islands' meager defenses against both internal and external threats. Many Scouts served lengthy enlistments, and it was common for Scouts to serve in the same company or troop for thirty years. Formed in 1922, the 26th Cavalry, whose motto was Our Strength is in Loyalty, was one of the remaining horse cavalry regiments in the Army in 1941. Organized into two squadrons of three troops each, with service and machine gun troops, the 26th was smaller than horse cavalry regiments stateside, and did not possess scout cars and motorized assets, including four-ton semitrailers or large trucks for long-range transport of mounts and men. The 26th was relatively well-equipped in small arms, with troopers armed with the modern semi-automatic M1 Garand rifle, the M1928A1 Thompson submachinegun, and the M1911A1 pistol.

Reporting for duty at Fort Stotsenburg, north of Manila near Clark Field in the foothills of the Zambales Mountains, Lieutenant Ramsey was assigned to Troop G, 2d Squadron. In addition to Ramsey, the small troop consisted of a captain, one sergeant, a corporal, and twenty-five privates. It was a rather enjoyable colonial army life on the small post in the summer of 1941. With comfortable quarters, friendly native servants, and dress uniforms required for dinner, it was more akin to "Gunga Din" than the twentieth century.

A serious threat, however, hung over the islands—the nearby Empire of Japan. With war in Asia now in its tenth year, indications abounded of a possible strike by Japan to take the Philippines. By 1941, reconnaissance over-flights, espionage, and aggressive moves elsewhere in Asia had convinced senior American military leaders to take precautionary measures in the islands. These included

"First Lieutenant Ramsey is shown here in this 1941 photograph atop his mount Brynn Awrynn while serving with the 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts). In addition to serving as a cavalry trooper in the 26th, Ramsey played on the regimental polo team, considered one of the best in the Army in the 1930s and the early 1940s. (Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Edwin P. Ramsey)"

sending dependents home, mobilizing the nascent Philippine Army, and shipping additional air and ground reinforcements westward to bolster anemic island defenses. Retired General Douglas MacArthur was recalled to active duty and given command of the new United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE). From the Philippines, MacArthur informed the War Department that "Military forces maintained here by the United States are entirely inadequate□ little more than token symbols."

Inadequate or not, by the fall of 1941, USAFFE and the 26th Cavalry Regiment were training hard and preparing for an uncertain future. Regimental officers were now fully engaged with exacting drills and maneuvers during the day, followed by Tagalog classes in the evening. Forces assigned to the islands had a daunting task of defending some 7,000 islands and 11,000 miles of coastline with 22,000 troops, with 12,000 of those crack Philippine Scouts.

Appropriately enough, there was to be time for a final pre-war polo match at Fort Stotsenburg on 7 December 1941 between the Manila Polo Club and the regiment, with Ramsey playing on the four-man home squad. With North Luzon Force Commander Major General Jonathan M. "Skinny" Wainwright as umpire, Ramsey rode well in a losing cause. After a memorable post-match party, Ramsey began World War II on Sunday morning, 8 December with a considerable hangover. Confusion abounded that first morning of war. Nevertheless, Colonel Clinton A. Pierce, the regimental commander, had the presence of mind to immediately move the 26th from its garrison to preplanned dispersed battlefield positions. Avoiding the chaos of the Japanese air attack on Clark Field, Ramsey and his platoon moved across Luzon to the east and took up positions at Baler Bay.

Two days later the Japanese 14th Army, led by General Masaharu Homma, began landing at Lingayen Gulf and drove south towards Manila. In a classic cavalry delaying mission, the 26th Cavalry Regiment attempted to slow the Japanese advance, giving time for American and Filipino forces to sidestep into the Bataan Peninsula. South of the invasion beaches, the regimental S-3 recalled that "It

was a wonderful thing, to watch□ soldiers who'd never before seen a gun fired in anger, calmly choosing their positions, adjusting their rifle slings, and proceeding to pick off Japs as though they were silhouette targets on the rifle range."

By the time the last bridge had been blown over the Layac River leading into Bataan, the 26th Cavalry was roughly down to half strength, with only one composite squadron remaining with "□ men haggard and showing signs of malnutrition□ horses that were left could scarcely walk." With a defensive line now established across the peninsula, Ramsey and the regiment were ordered to the west coast of Bataan to support Wainwright's I Corps and the Philippine Army's 1st Division. Volunteering to remain and guide a replacing troop, Ramsey, on his mount Bryn Awryn, entered Army history on 16 January 1942 when he led the last horse-mounted cavalry charge in U.S. Army History. Ordered to take point by Wainwright, who recognized Ramsey from December's polo match, he rode north on reconnaissance, leading a horse mounted column. At the small village of Morong, Ramsey's platoon charged into an advance element of Japanese Colonel Yunosuke Watanabe's 122d Infantry Regiment and succeeded in driving the infantry back until the composite E-F Troop arrived. Ramsey joked years later that he had violated one of the three basic principles of soldiering—"never volunteer."

After the charge, Ramsey was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star for gallantry in action. Wounded and jaundiced, he was evacuated to a jungle hospital but rejoined the 26th before American and Filipino forces on Bataan surrendered on 9 April. By that time, the regiment was fighting on foot, since all horses and mules, including Bryn Awryn, had been used to feed the starving "Battling Bastards of Bataan." Refusing to surrender, Ramsey and Captain Joe Barker walked north out of the peninsula, carrying little more than their side arms. Uncertain about their future, or legal status, the assumption by both was that they would be dead in ninety days or less.

As officers now in search of a command, the two were able to eventually link up with Colonel Thorp, a USAFFE staff officer sent north by MacArthur to organize resistance against the Japanese before the fall of Bataan. Luzon had been divided into four areas of operations, with Barker and Ramsey given Manila north to Lingayen Gulf. This command was designated the East Central Luzon Area Force. The cavalry tenets of shock, mobility, surprise, and a borrowed copy of Mao Tse-Tung's work on guerrilla warfare guided the "war criminals" as they began their efforts. Challenges were plentiful. Intelligence gathering was the first priority as underground, auxiliary, and guerilla forces had to be established in East Central Luzon. Getting information out of the islands was a challenge, but this improved considerably after contact was made with the Allied Intelligence Bureau. Ramsey's "first real contact with the outside world had come from MacArthur personally," with Ramsey, instructed via radio message, to remain on Luzon and continue his efforts. By 1943, Ramsey, now promoted, had assumed command of the force after the capture of Barker in Manila. Moving up to number two on the Japanese counter-intelligence kill or capture list, with a price of $200,000 on his head, Ramsey forged an effective resistance force with more than 38,000 men and women under his command.

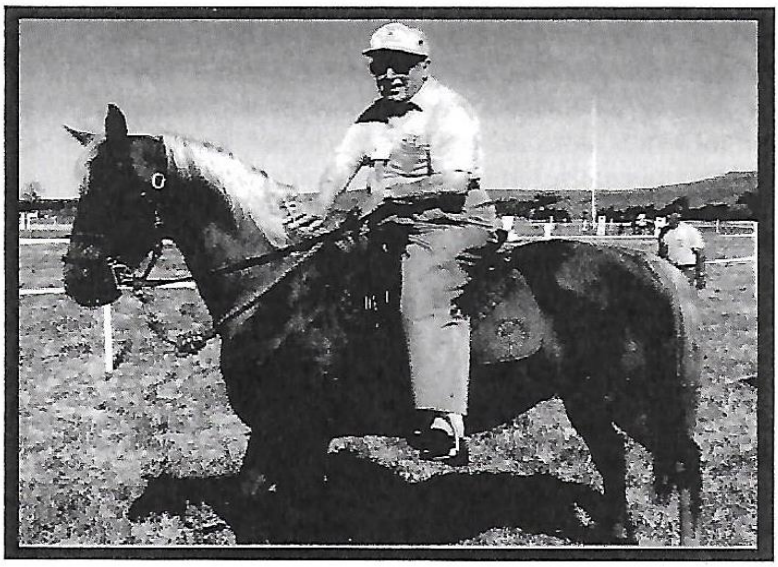
Service with the guerrilla forces on Luzon was fraught with danger. Ramsey fought both Communist Huks and Japanese troops, escaped an assassination attempt, underwent an emergency appendectomy without anesthesia, and organized resistance efforts in Manila. By the fall of 1944, an estimated 250,000 resistance fighters, organized into eleven major groups, were conducting effective combat operations against the Japanese occupation troops.

With the landings on Leyte Island on 20 October 1944, MacArthur and the United States finally "returned" to the Philippines. The information provided by the guerilla forces, such as those led by Ramsey, was vital to MacArthur's return. On 9 January 1945, U.S. forces invaded Luzon. Army official histories credit an "abundance of information" on Japanese strength, dispositions, capabilities, and intentions on Luzon to the "veritable hotbed of guerilla resistance" at the time. Finally linking up with the U.S. Sixth Army, the East Central Luzon Area Force provided additional support to conventional forces moving south towards Manila.

On 13 June 1945, MacArthur presented the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) to then Major Ramsey for "□ extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the Philippine Guerilla Forces, East Central Luzon Guerilla Area, in action against enemy forces from 21 April 1942 to 30 April 1945, in the Philippine Islands." Also honored with the DSC at the same ceremony were surviving fellow American guerilla leaders Bernard L. Anderson, Robert Lapham, Ray Hunt, and others. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, Ramsey, clearly ill and suffering from malaria, amoebic dysentery, anemia, acute malnutrition, and a state of general collapse, was ordered back to the States three days later by MacArthur. It would take almost a year in a stateside hospital for a complete recovery. Medically retired from the Army, Ramsey would go on to complete his law degree at the University of Oklahoma and have a successful business career with Hughes Aircraft in Manila, Hong Kong, and Tokyo.

Deserved recognition and honors followed over the years. The Republic of the Philippines awarded him the Philippine Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Conduct Star, Distinguished Service Star, and Wounded Personnel medal. His wartime unconventional warfare (UW) experiences, with those of fellow guerilla leaders Russell W. Volckmann, Lapham, Donald D. Blackburn, and Wendell Fertig, helped to establish the doctrinal and organizational structure of the U.S. Army Special Forces in 1952. The commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, recognized Ramsey's wartime UW accomplishments with the award of the Special Forces Tab and Green Beret during a guest speaker visit to Fort Bragg in 2001.

One of the last living Philippine guerilla leaders from World War II, the "Grand Old Man" of the cavalry remains delightfully active at age ninety-four, and is now retired in Los Angeles, California. Ramsey can often be seen at the U.S. Cavalry Association Annual Bivouac and



"An old soldier that refuses to fade away, Ramsey mounts up at a recent bivouac of the U.S. Cavalry Association. (Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Edwin P. Ramsey, USA-Ret.)"

was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2010. He had to give up polo in 1964 after a near-fatal fall, but his last charge mount, Bryn Awryn, is remembered now in the annual Army vs. Marine polo match, with the best playing pony award named in his honor. Appropriately enough, both man and mount will always be remembered for their accomplishments on both the polo field and battlefield.

About the Author

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Captain Menandro Parazo, member of the 26th Cavalry, is laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery

by

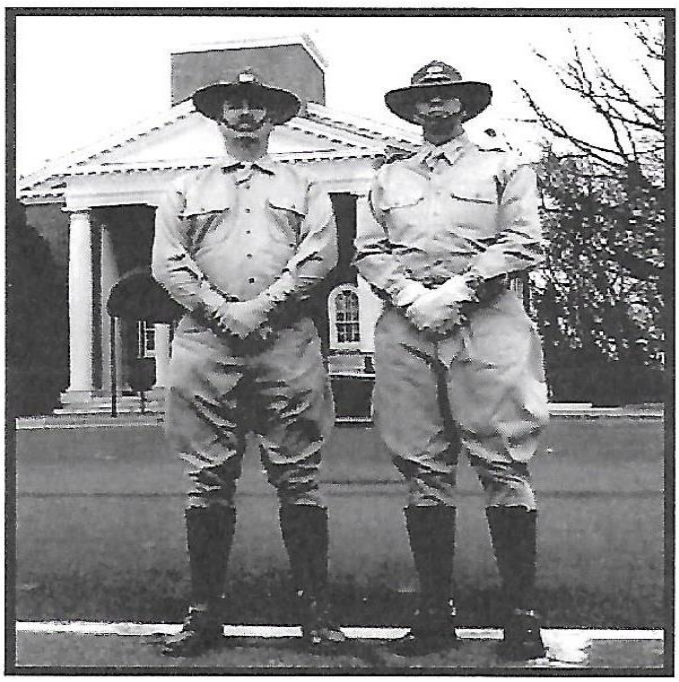
Jeffrey E. Jordan

On Monday, December 19, 2011, Captain Menandro Parazo, a member of the 26th Cavalry, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a sunny but cool day, far different from those December days, 70 years ago and half a world away, when he served with distinction in America's last mounted cavalry, part of the Philippine Scouts.

Captain Parazo was born in the Philippines in 1918 and enlisted in the 26th Cavalry in 1941. As described in Peter F. Stevens' recent book, The Twilight Riders, he served valiantly with that heroic unit, participating in the 26th's distinguished stand against the Japanese forces. He was captured, surviving the brutal Bataan Death March, escaped from Japanese captivity twice and ultimately rejoined U.S. forces to participate in the liberation of the Philippines. He was awarded the Bronze Star on three occasions and also awarded numerous other commendations. After the war, he married and moved to the United States, settling in Texas. He completed his military career after more than 30 years of service, retiring with the rank of Captain. He had the pleasure of seeing his family grow and prosper, dying peacefully at age 94, surrounded by children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

(From left to right) Dr. Isabelo Torio, Ed Ramsey, Dan Figueracion and Menandro Parazo

In recognition of his distinguished military services, his commendations and his rank, he was accorded the honor of burial with full military honors at America's most distinguished military cemetery, Arlington National Cemetery. In recognition of his service in the 26th Cavalry and membership in the Philippine Scout Historical Society, his



Phillip Gibbons and Jeffrey Jordan in front of the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel.

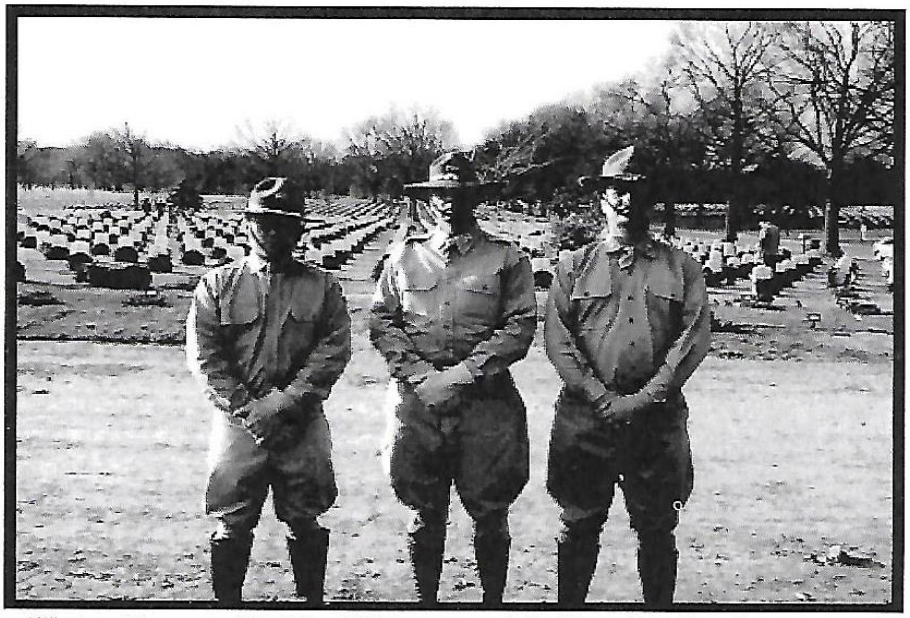
(From left to right) Menandro Parazo, Dr. Isabelo Torio and Dan Figueracion.

family requested that the Society seek to arrange the presence at the ceremony of a reenactor in appropriate 1941 uniform, portraying a member of the 26th Cavalry. The family was delighted to find that not one, but three reenactors requested the honor of participating in the ceremony, Victor Verano of the Philippine Scout Historical Society and Philip Gibbons and Jeffrey Jordan of the U.S. Cavalry Association.

On Monday, December 19, 2011, with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren attending, a Catholic funeral mass was held for Captain Parazo and his wife, Teofila, at the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Captain Parazo's flag draped casket was transported on an artillery caisson drawn by six black horses to the grave site. The caisson was accompanied by a platoon of infantry in dress uniform, a military marching band, three reenactors portraying members of the 26th Cavalry in 1941 field uniforms and a bus, transporting the family. At the grave site, the band played and the Chaplain performed the burial ceremony. An officer presented the family with the U.S. flag that had draped the Captain's casket in recognition of his service to the United States. A ceremonial firing party fired three volleys, a bugler movingly played Taps and a bagpiper played Amazing Grace, Donny Boy and Going Home, marching off into the distance as he played the final piece. The family decorated the casket with roses and the members of the armed services and the reenactors rendered honors at the grave side with a salute.

The family members thanked those present for attending, saving special thanks for the reenactors. The Captain's eldest son noted the presence of the reenactors, saying on seeing them, that "my dad is smiling today." As the family adjourned, the reenactors took the opportunity to walk back to the Old Post Chapel, noting along the way the graves of cavalrymen throughout the cemetery, memorializing the service of horse soldiers to this country from the Civil War to the present day.

Victor, Philip and I were honored to be present at this ceremony, to portray the 26th Cavalry and to mark the passing of one of the few remaining U.S. soldiers who had defended this country from the back of a horse. We are saddened by Captain Parazo's passing but are cheered by the thought of his reunion with his comrades and his horse on Fiddlers Green.



Victor Verano, Phillip Gibbons and Jeffrey Jordan in uniform.

75th Anniversary
The Last Horse-Mounted Charge of the U.S. Cavalry

By Jeffrey E. Jordan, USCA Trooper and Member 26th Cavalry (PS) Living Historians

The Last Cavalry charge in the U.S. Army's history
http://georgy-konstantinovich-zhukov.tumblr.com/post/29141815278/horsey-charge

The Oxford English dictionary defines the word "cavalry" as follows: "(in the past) soldiers who fought on horseback." It explains the word's origin as mid-16th century: from French cavallerie, from Italian cavalleria, from cavallo, from Latin caballus (horse). Wikipedia further explains: "From earliest times cavalry had the advantage of improved mobility, and a man fighting from horseback also had the advantages of greater height, speed, and inertial mass over an opponent on foot. Another element of horse mounted warfare is the psychological impact a mounted soldier can inflict on an opponent."

Perhaps it was a bit anachronistic that in the 1930's, following the harsh lessons of World War I that the future battlefield would be dominated by barbed wire, machine guns, artillery, armored vehicles and aircraft, the U.S. Army would still retain horse cavalry and train its officers in the advantages of height, speed, inertial mass, and psychological impact inherent in a mounted cavalry charge. But these lessons continued to be taught, and, on 16 January 1942 they were deployed for the last time by a U.S. horse-mounted cavalry unit in a charge conducted by a platoon of combined Troops E and F of the 26th

U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts), led by First Lieutenant Edwin Ramsey.

Lt. Ramsey on his horse Bryn Awryn

Edwin Price Ramsey, born in Illinois on 9 May 1917, was raised in Kansas by his widowed mother and graduated from the Oklahoma Military Academy in May 1938. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Cavalry Reserve and entered active duty in February 1941 with the 11th U.S. Cavalry. In June 1941, he volunteered for service in the Philippines with the 26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts). An avid rider and polo player, he was attracted to the 26th Cavalry (PS) by its active polo competition.

The 26th Cavalry (PS) was formed on the Philippine island of Luzon in 1922 from elements of a U.S. Army field artillery regiment and a U.S. Army infantry regiment whose service in the Philippines traced back to the end of the Spanish American War. The 26th Cavalry (PS) was headquartered at Fort Stotsenburg, about an hour north of the capital city of Manilla. At the start of World War II, the regiment had about 55 officers (U.S. and Filipino) and 785 (Filipino) enlisted troopers. It was organized with six horse troops, a HQ troop, a machine gun troop, a platoon of White scout cars, and trucks for transporting support services, including a veterinarian. The regiment was thoroughly trained and highly proficient in its service as horse cavalry. It was regarded as an elite unit. Ramsey described it as "probably as fine, if not the finest, regiment the U.S. Army had."

26th Cavalry (PS) M3A1 "White" Scout Cars
Life Magazine Photo

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese army, on 12 December 1941, invaded the Philippine island of Luzon and began a determined drive south towards Manila. They encountered U.S. and Philippine forces who engaged in dogged resistance, delaying the Japanese advance. By mid-January 1942, the Japanese forces had focused on breaking the defending line by driving through the area around Mount Natib. In the path of this drive was the small village of Moron, which initially was defended by the Philippine Army. However, they had withdrawn from Moron on 14 January, and General Wainwright ordered combined Troops E and F of the 26th Cavalry (PS) to fill the gap.

Lt. Ramsey, due to his familiarity with the area from prior patrols, was ordered to lead the first platoon, composed of 28 mounted troopers, into Moron. As they approached Moron without resistance, he ordered four troopers to ride point into the village. They entered the village at the same time as the advance guard of a large Japanese infantry unit and drew the fire of the startled Japanese soldiers. Galloping back with one trooper wounded, they alerted Ramsey. Riding forward, Ramsey saw dozens of Japanese infantrymen firing from the village center and further back hundreds more crossing the Batalan River towards Moron. He deployed his platoon as three squads in line of skirmishers, and they drew pistols. Recalling his cavalry training, he realized that the height, speed, mass and impact of a charge would be the only hope to break up the body of Japanese infantry. He shouted for his troopers to charge. Nearly lying flat on their horses' necks, they galloped into the mass of Japanese soldiers, shouting and firing as they went. They crossed the 100 yards from the village center to the river in moments, causing the startled Japanese infantry to break and flee in confusion and disarray. Seizing the advantage, Ramsey ordered the troopers to rein up, dismount and engage the disorganized enemy with rifle fire. The second platoon, led by Lt. Eliseo Mallari,

Capt. John Wheeler, Commander of Combined Troops E/F
Life Magazine Photo

and the third platoon, led by Sgt. Manuel Mascangcay, of the combined Troops rode to the sound of the guns and reinforced Ramsey's platoon. Later, the cavalry was relieved by infantry, and the action initiated by Ramsey had brought the Japanese advance at Moron to a complete halt. Lt. Ramsey's quick and resourceful action was witnessed by several superior officers, and ultimately Ramsey was awarded a Silver Star for successfully leading the last U.S. Cavalry horse-mounted charge.

Of course, the victory at Moron, like the rest of the heroic defense of Luzon, was temporary. The determined resistance of the U.S. and Philippine armies seriously slowed the Japanese advance and made it costly, but ultimately, months later, all of Luzon fell. This final outcome does not diminish the last charge or the 26th Cavalry's history of exemplary service.

There is a tendency to romanticize horse cavalry, to speak of the dashing cavalier on a horse. However, the many written histories of the service of the U.S. Cavalry make it clear that actual cavalry service was not dashing or romantic. War is a harsh, brutal and ultimately ugly business, and this is not relieved by the beauty, majesty and power of the horse. The true significance of the last charge is not the romance of the horse charge. The American and Filipino soldiers who participated in the last charge displayed the best attributes of cavalrymen. They exercised rapid judgment, seized the opportunity and with selfless courage charged into the fray. Because of this legacy, the U.S. Army today proudly retains the terms and images of the horse cavalry to remind them of the power of spirit, initiative, determination and courage in defense of our nation.

[Ed. For further information of the 26th Cavalry's intense fighting of the Japanese, I recommend The Doomed Horse Soldiers of Bataan – The Incredible Stand of the 26th Cavalry by Raymond C. Woolfe, Jr. and The Twilight Riders – The Last Charge of the 26th Cavalry by Peter F. Stevens.]

A Cavalryman's Battle Buddy

By Trooper Sam Young

In twenty-first century wars involving U.S. soldiers we have become accustomed to the phrase "battle buddy". While there are many definitions to this phrase, let's use partners assigned by the Army as battle buddies who together train for and serve in combat. But when the U.S. Cavalry was horse-mounted, each cavalryman had another cavalryman as his battle buddy as well as his horse who was also his battle buddy. Let's focus on his horse.

While there are many examples, let's look at only one cavalry battle buddy team: Sergeant Felipe Fernandez and his horse Mike, Troop E 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts).

Felipe, a new Scout, and Mike, a new Cavalry horse from an Oklahoma ranch, were partnered in January, 1937. The intense training they received and their time together developed a trusted friendship and team mates. Per Felipe, "Mike was a very intelligent horse. He remembered all the little things I normally did for him. Sometimes I forgot them, but he reminded me in his own way, turning his head towards me, as if to say I missed something, and when I did the things I'd missed, he rewarded me by turning his head, looking at me, and snorting. Mike also rewarded me by being very obedient. He never got excited and always waited for me to urge him to do what I wanted when I was in the saddle. Mike and I became inseparable."

During the chaos of war in December, 1941, and January, 1942, with the 26th fully committed in fierce and deadly fighting to delay the Japanese, Mike remained calm and responsive to Felipe. Mike never panicked or shied as he trusted Felipe.

On 22 January 1942, due to shortage of food for the thousands of trapped American and Filipino military personnel and the 26th's horses, and the terrain in which the 26th would have to fight, the 26th was ordered to turn over its horses to the Quartermaster to be slaughtered to supplement the meager rations even though the horses had lost much weight while fighting the Japanese.

Felipe later said "Mike seemed to know that it was the last day we (would) be together. It hurt me so much to let him go, but it was an order, so I just had to bite my tongue…and keep the good memories Mike and I had together. I would never have such a friend as Mike ever again…."

Reference:

Stevens, Peter F. The Twilight Riders. Globe Pequot Press. 2011.

Last Last-Charge Trooper Passes

By Trooper Sam Young

On 3 April 2017, Sergeant First Class Dominador “Dan” Figuracion, a former Cavalryman in Troop F, 26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts), mounted his horse for the final time and rode to Fiddler’s Green where he joined his fellow Scouts and Cavalrymen who awaited him there.

SFC Figuracion, at age 98, was the last surviving 26th Cavalry trooper who rode in the last horse-mounted cavalry charge of the U.S. Army [Ed. The Cavalry Journal, March 2017, “75th Anniversary The Last Horse-Mounted Charge of the U.S. Cavalry”].

Dan survived the Bataan Death March, was a former prisoner of war (POW), a decorated veteran of World War II and Vietnam, and was honorably retired from the U.S. Army.

Dan was active in the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and a strong mentor to those striving to keep alive and share with the world the legacy of the Philippine Scouts.

Dan's grandson, Ricardo Molina, a member of the 26th Cavalry Ceremonial Mounted Unit, honored his grandfather and the 26th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (PS) by walking the more than five miles of the 2017 Rose Parade on January 2nd.

And then the Scouts will form to be reviewed
Each scattered unit now once more complete
Each weapon and each bright crisp flag renewed
And high above the cadence of their feet
Will come the loud clear virile welcoming shout
From many throats before the feasts begin
Their badge of honor mid their comrades rout---
“Make way, make way, the Scouts are moving in.”

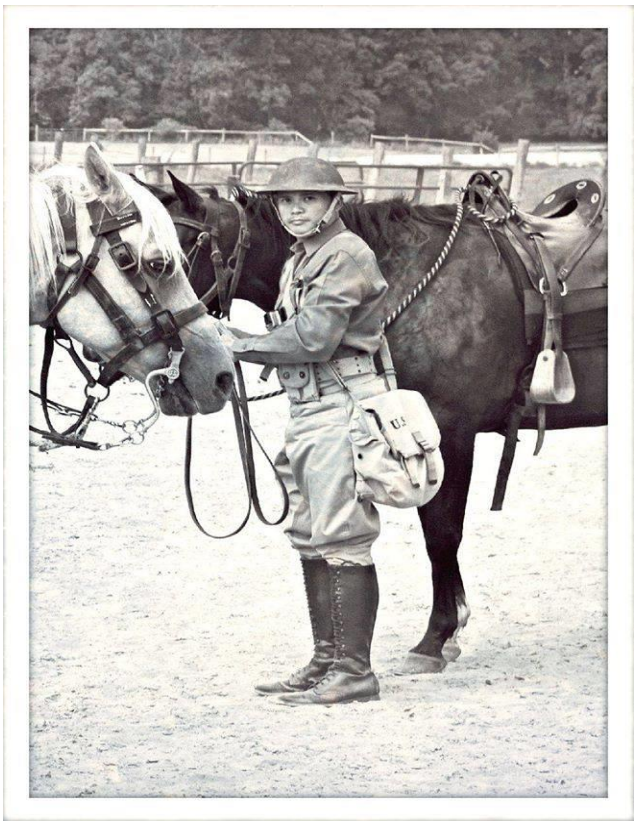
By Henry G. Lee, 1st Lieutenant
Headquarters and Military Police Company
Philippine Division, U.S. Army

Wool, Leather, and Horse Sweat

By Trooper Ronald C. Bingham

A life of wool, leather and horse sweat…and throw in some khaki during the warm summer months. Those elements are so familiar to this Virginia 20th century U.S. Cavalry living history troop; they have become its unofficial motto.

This group of horse lovers and military reenactors formed while portraying the 26th United States Cavalry, Philippine Scouts (PS), a few years ago. It has since expanded to cover the era Lieutenant General Lucian Truscott, Jr. described in his book, The Twilight of the U.S. Cavalry, Life in the Old Army, 1917-1942.



Sergeant Victor Verano

A few years before the troop was established, one of its soon-to-be members attended a living history event dressed as a mounted Philippine Scout officer riding a life-size plastic static display horse. By coincidence, the neighboring display was manned by Filipino reenactors who were proudly portraying their relatives who served in the Philippine Army, circa 1941-42.

Not surprisingly, the reenactors began chatting up their shared interests, and they soon agreed to the idea of forming a mounted unit representing the 26th U.S. Cavalry, Philippine Scouts. It would be a way for them to tell the little known and almost untold story of the U.S. Cavalry in the 20th century.

After attending a few small events – to include one occasion when the group served as a small honor guard for the funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Ramsey (26th Cavalry (PS) 1941-1942), the new 26th U.S Cavalry (PS) contingent appeared to be back in the saddle with seven troopers regularly forming up at Fort Valley, VA, in the summer of 2014.

As their activity level increased over the following year, the Scouts were not only traveling to events all over Virginia, but also evolving and expanding their interests and collection of artifacts. In addition to items pertaining to the World War II service of the Philippine Scouts, they accumulated memorabilia representing the 13th U.S Cavalry in the 1916 Mexican Punitive Expedition; the 2nd U.S. Cavalry in World War I; and the 112th U.S Cavalry, Texas National Guard in the interwar years.

The group's full-size plastic display horse, nicknamed DuPont, still makes appearances from time to time when use of horses is unfeasible or unwelcome. Members of the unit also have appeared in uniform without horses at other occasions to add an historical perspective. Recent destinations include the Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg, PA; the Reading Air Show, Reading, PA; and Donut Day for Soldiers (a WWI tribute) at Fort Lee, VA. It also performed mounted demonstrations at the Americans at War Museum, Nokesville, VA and at WWII weekend, Fort Valley, VA.

Members of our group have sponsored uniformed trail rides in Virginia, and for the first time in October, 2015, participated in a Hunter Pace event sponsored by the Bull Run Hunt Club, Culpeper VA, while outfitted in historical uniforms and tack.

While many members of the troop own their horses, there are some who do not and must borrow, rent or lease them for events. We also have a few troopers who have not ridden in many years, or at all. It is a pleasure working and training with these new recruits. One of our troopers has so fallen in love with horseback riding, that he recently joined a polo club near his home town in Philadelphia and has included his young daughter during evening outings.

Others, like me, have ridden for a while but are new to military living history, so we are mentored by the old timers who have participated in many reenactments of the American Civil War and other historical periods. Nearly all of us are fairly new to 20th Century U.S. Cavalry reenacting. We are all enjoying the opportunity to learn about the period and ride in historical uniforms and tack.

Two events that deserve particular recognition are the 2014 Americans at War Museum event and the 2015 Hunter Pace reenactment.

The Americans at War Museum – or as we call it, the Tank Farm – holds an annual open house in Nokesville, VA. It features many armored vehicles and military displays. Attending this event were four mounted troopers and a half-dozen dismounted soldiers representing the 26th U.S Cavalry (PS). Over half of the troopers that attended were Filipinos. A few of the reenactors also portrayed Imperial Japanese soldiers and sailors.

The plan was to put on a small mounted and dismounted skirmish for the public, circa January 1942. On the morning of the actual event, the museum offered us the chance to patrol not only with our horses and dismounted troopers, but also with an M3 White Scout Car. In the fall of 1941, the 26th U.S. Cavalry (PS) was in the process of transitioning to become a mechanized unit and had been issued a few of the M3s. Of course this transition quickly came to a halt when the Japanese attacked the Philippine Islands on December 8, 1941.

In the fall of 2015, I was looking for riding events in central Virginia when I noticed a Hunter Pace ride sponsored by the Bull Run Hunt Club near Culpeper, VA. It brought to mind a recent discovery made at the U.S. Army Women's Museum, my worksite at Fort Lee, VA. It was a circa 1946 photo depicting a Women's Army Corps Soldier riding as a member of the Fort Riley Fox Hunt. Right away, I thought it would be fun to participate in the Hunter Pace event dressed in period uniform and tack in honor of these Army fox hunters of the past.

Those who are fox hunters – I humbly admit I am among their ranks – know that some of these clubs have a very long lineage. They also can be rather traditional (meaning inflexible) with their dress codes, horse tack, and hunting etiquette. I was pretty sure they would turn down my request to ride in period dress and tack. Nonetheless, I still wanted to give it the old Cavalry soldier try.

After a few phone calls with the Bull Run Hunt Master and later exchanging emails where we discussed U.S. Cavalry traditions and history, and shared photos of the Troop, I was able to impress upon her that we are a serious group of Cavalry historians and would strive to meet their Hunt's standards of riding and safety.

They agreed to let us ride in uniform and period military tack under one condition – that we wear modern safety helmets during the riding portion of the Hunter Pace. We were allowed to wear our M1911 campaign hats and Kelly helmets before and after the ride for photos and demonstration purposes. We gladly agreed and proudly showed up outfitted as the 112th U.S. Cavalry (Texas National Guard), circa 1939. Our team of three troopers consisted of one officer with a 1917 officer's saddle and two enlisted men riding 1904 McClellan saddles.

Our small contingent competed against twenty other teams and rode the six-mile course where we met and tackled at least 26 of the 30-plus obstacles and jumps. In the end, and to our surprise, the 112th Cavalry team took 2nd place.

Later at the stirrup cup lunch, we spoke with many inquisitive fellow riding enthusiasts about the Cavalry, living history, tack, and equipment. Best of all, the Bull Run Hunt invited us back for the 2016 Hunter Pace, and to participate in their weeklong mounted camping ride. Hopefully, we also picked up a new recruit or two. . . . We will know for sure in 2016.

Going back to that 1946 photo of the fox hunt at Fort Riley, I'm still working on being allowed to go on a real fox hunt in historical uniform. Add that one to the bucket list.

Our unit's mission and goal are to ride our horses in the U.S. Cavalry tradition and meet both period Army standards and modern safety standards. We want to better inform the public, historians, and ourselves on the history of the U.S. Cavalry in the 20th century, with both mounted and dismounted displays and public demonstrations.

The 2016 calendar is already filling up with a few of us heading to Columbus, NM, in March for the 100th commemoration of Pancho Villa's raid in 1916 and to Brandy Station, VA, in April for a WWI uniformed staff ride at Brandy Station Battlefield. We are looking forward to an eventful year, donning both our wool and khaki, and sitting atop our trusty steeds tacked up with 1904 McClellan saddles as proud 20th Century U.S. Cavalrymen.

For more information on the 20th Century U.S. Cavalry Living History Troop, check out our Facebook page, *www.facebook.com/20th Century U.S. Cavalry*.

Book Review

The Twilight Riders - The Last Charge of the 26th Cavalry.
Peter F. Stevens. Lyons Press. 2011.
Reviewed by Jeffrey E. Jordan, USCA Trooper and member 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts) Living Historians

As an amateur cavalry historian I have often wished I could speak to a cavalry soldier who had participated in an historic battle. How many questions could be resolved in just a short conversation! Sadly for those of us who are fascinated by the history of the U.S. horse cavalry, that opportunity is almost entirely past. However, happily for those of us who admire the service of the 26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts), Peter Stevens had the foresight to recognize the opportunity to obtain first-hand accounts from surviving members of the 26th Cavalry and use these accounts to write an excellent telling of the heroic service of this distinguished unit.

The book cites a long list of archive and primary sources, books and periodicals, but what truly sets this book apart is his interviews with 26th Cavalry survivors William E. Chandler, Edwin P. Ramsey, Felipe Fernandez, and Menandro Parazo. Their recollections are woven throughout the recounting.

Major Chandler, as a staff officer working closely with the 26th's commander, Colonel Clinton Pierce, had an extensive overview of the action and his eye-witness accounts appear many times. He describes numerous actions first hand, including the first engagement: "The accuracy of the Scout rifle fire and the well-handled machine guns gave the invading Japanese the first real fight they had seen."

The famous last charge, led by Lieutenant Ramsey on January 16, 1942, receives extensive recounting in a chapter illuminated by Ramsey's personal description. But Ramsey's heroic service was not limited to that single remarkable event. Stevens, with Ramsey's aid, describes several other aspects of his distinguished service which are often overshadowed by the last charge.

Sergeant Fernandez and Private Parazo provide seldom seen insight into the life and service of the Filipino troopers. Fernandez's personal recounting of his background and enlistment, his family and his horse, in addition to his outstanding field service, bring a personal element to the story, lifting it from a military history to a full description of life in the 26th.

His description of his relationship with his horse, Mike, will leave a deep, heartfelt impression with all equestrians.

As a living historian portraying a member of the 26th Cavalry, I have found this book to be a priceless resource. In addition to providing a very readable recounting of the 26th's field service, it also provides numerous small details important for an accurate living history portrayal. But even more important it enables us to bring to life the troopers of the 26th, recounting their deeds from eye-witness accounts and even in their own words. We are proud to portray members of the 26th and to keep alive the story of their service. The skillful research and stirring writing found in "The Twilight Riders" enable us to do so.

Movie Review

"Forgotten Soldiers" (DVD) 2012
Producer and Director: Donald Plata
Written by: Chris Schaefer
Reviewed by Trooper Ed Kennedy

Produced and premiered in 2012, "Forgotten Soldiers" is an outstanding documentary movie telling the story of the dedicated and brave soldiers of the Philippine Scouts. The movie gives an excellent background of who the Philippine Scouts were and how they gained their fame.

Many of the Philippine Scouts who survived WWII are passing away rapidly now, as most are in their 90s. These are the remnants of an organization that was formed as result of the Spanish-American War to combat Insurrectos and Moros in the Philippines. The "Scouts" were U.S. Army units recruited from among the Philippine population to form the foundation for the defensive forces for the Philippines. The officer corps was largely American.

Philippine Scout units were recruited to fill four infantry regiments, two field artillery regiments, one coast artillery regiment, and a cavalry regiment. Additional support units were added prior to WWII. The soldiers selected to fill these ranks were tough, resourceful, and highly motivated. Some of the best Scouts received appointments to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and became commissioned officers in the Scout units.

"Forgotten Soldiers" begins in the early years of the Scouts' formation, but the focus is WWII and their stand against the Japanese invasion and subsequent occupation of the Philippines. The incredible stand against the Japanese Army resulted in the slowing of the Japanese timeline for the conquering of the Philippines and Southeast Asia. The Philippine Division's Philippine Scouts soldiers were part of this heroic effort. American cavalry Lieutenant Edwin Ramsey (26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts) conducted the last known U.S. horse cavalry charge in history against the Japanese before American and Philippine forces capitulated. The first Medals of Honor awarded during the U.S. involvement in WWII were to Philippine Scout soldiers.

The saddest part of this movie is the horrendous treatment by the Japanese towards the prisoners and people of the Philippines after the surrender of U.S. forces. Scouts captured by the Japanese were tortured, murdered, and otherwise mistreated along with American prisoners of war, with almost 40% perishing under Japanese control. The Philippine Scouts survived the war as an organization to be reconstituted, but when the Philippines gained their independence, the Scouts were integrated into the Philippine armed forces and the Scouts were disbanded. Soldiers of the Scouts were officially U.S. servicemen. Therefore many were allowed to take U.S. citizenship and serve in the U.S. military where they continued honorably until retirement.

I was honored to meet two members of the 26th Cavalry years ago: LTC (USA Ret.) Edwin Ramsey and COL (USA Ret.) C. Cosby Kerney, who served with the regiment at Bataan and survived the war. Ramsey, a new lieutenant in 1941, ended the war with a Distinguished Service Cross and the rank of lieutenant colonel for leading Filipino guerillas for three years against the Japanese. At a recent showing of "Forgotten Soldiers" at the U.S. Veterans Museum in Huntsville, Alabama, we were honored with the attendance of two former Scouts, some of the quickly dwindling number of living Scouts.

This movie is well-worth viewing. My only criticism is the lack of subtitles for some of the veteran interviews which are difficult to understand due to the accents and loud music in the background. Otherwise, this movie chronicles heroism that people today need to remember and is a valuable addition to our historical records.

Movie Review

"Never Surrender" (DVD) 2016
The Ed Ramsey Story
Executive Producers: Raquel R. Ramsey and Steven C. Barber
Narrator: Josh Brolin
Reviewed by: Trooper Sam Young

Ed Ramsey is one of the U.S. Army's mostly forgotten dynamic warrior-leaders of World War II. If you have read The Doomed Horse Soldiers of Bataan or The Twilight Riders—stories of the 26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts)—then you know he led the last horse-mounted charge of the U.S. Cavalry. Additionally, if you have read Lieutenant Ramsey's War you know his exploits leading Filipino guerilla forces as they fought against the Japanese occupation forces. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General Douglas MacArthur for his actions.

This movie describes how he was molded to be a courageous and take-charge officer in the face of the hell of war. It is his life story, from beginning to end, as told by his family and friends (American, Filipino, and Japanese), schoolmates, fellow soldiers, business associates, and others.

Ramsey, born 9 May 1917 in Carlyle, Illinois, grew up in El Dorado and Wichita, Kansas. He and his older sister, Nadine, were very close. She was ambitious, smart, and wanted to be a pilot. His mother had been a teacher but became a dermatologist and business owner to be able to afford to send her children to college. His father, whom he loved and admired, worked in the oil fields which took him away from home most of the time. Around 1929, when Ed was 12, his father's mental state began to change, and he suspected his wife of cheating on him which lead to fighting and him pulling a shotgun on her. He was arrested and jailed where he committed suicide.

Ed, without his father to be his role model, had pain and suffering. He became defiant and was close to becoming a juvenile delinquent. He hung out with bootleggers and developed a passion for moonshine and women. By age 16 he was a tough guy, able to take care of himself in a fight, and earning extra money teaching young men how to foxtrot. He was an expert dancer which attracted girls and women.

Like every loving mother, Ed's sought a way to channel his development away from the evil temptations that surrounded his life. Knowing Ed loved horses, she enrolled him in the Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) which had Cavalry and through which he could develop his character foundation and his love of horses. Per Ed, he "snapped it up in a hurry." The military discipline at OMA gave Ed the opportunity to be someone. He learned he was a natural leader, as he was not controlling, could handle any situation, and that people looked up to him for direction. And, he got to ride horses! Ed discovered polo and that it fit his character. Polo is fast, furious, aggressive, dangerous, risky, and exciting. It required teamwork between the horse and rider while developing a special bond between the horse and rider. He became an expert polo player. And he learned that as a cavalryman his horse was his "battle buddy." When he graduated from OMA he was commissioned a second lieutenant of Cavalry in the Army Reserve.

Ed's leadership in combat was nothing but amazing. After the war he pursued a career in civilian industry where his leadership was again displayed.. He was compassionate and forgiving. He demonstrated his compassion for the Filipino soldiers who served alongside U.S. soldiers during the war by persistently and successfully fighting for them to receive their promised benefits from the U.S. Government. His success in the business world was international and reflected his forgiveness as his career included living with his family and working in Japan for five years where he made many friends among the Japanese people which demonstrated his forgiving characteristic. And, he was the father to his children that he did not experience himself.

I could go further about Ed's life, but I will leave it for you to see the movie from which I believe you will be equally amazed at the life of this man. I recommend "Never Surrender" as it covers the life of a remarkable man.

[Ed. The "Never Surrender" DVD is available from USCA for $19.95 + shipping. Please call 405-422-6330 to order.]

Book Review

Lieutenant Ramsey's War: From Horse Soldier to Guerrilla Commander.
Edwin Price Ramsey and Stephen J. Rivele.
Brassey's. 1995.
Reviewed by: Trooper Phil Bolte

This paperback reissue of the 1990 publication by our own Trooper (and Director) Ed Ramsey is as full of suspense as an adventure novel. Joining the prewar U.S. Cavalry and opting the summer of 1941 for assignment to the 26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts, primarily to play polo, Ed soon found himself at war. He was to remain in the Philippines until 1945.

After a brief introduction of his early life and a few months of peacetime service, the book moves on to the defense of the Philippines, where the 26th Cavalry played an important role. It was during these months of tough fighting and physical hardship that Ed led what was arguably the last horse cavalry charge of the U.S. Army. Fighting dismounted at the time of the Bataan surrender, Ed and his company commander decided not to surrender, but to make their way through enemy lines to Australia. They never got there.

Linking up with the budding guerrilla operation in the mountains of Luzon, Ed became a key player in organizing the guerrilla effort and passing intelligence to Allied Headquarters. Initially without equipment or radios, hunted by the Japanese, and physically challenged by the environment, Ed, promoted to major, and his companions continued to build their force and gather intelligence for almost three years. By February 1945, the guerrilla force that now numbered 40,000 set about to support the Allied invasion through sabotage and ambushes.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General MacArthur personally, Ed was sent home to recover. He weighted ninety-seven pounds and faced an eleven month battle to regain his health.

This is a unique story of a young officer's dedication to duty in the face of great adversity. Coauthored by a talented writer, the book is well-written and flows well. Start reading it and you will find the book hard to put down.

Congressional Gold Medal

When the United States was attacked by the Japanese in December, 1941, the attack included the Philippines which was being prepared for self-government and independence by the United States. The defenders of the Philippines included thousands of U.S. and Filipino military personnel and many of its citizens who were and are steadfastly loyal to America. Many of the Filipino soldiers were members or veterans of the Philippine Scouts regiments which were U.S. Army regiments. Following the war these regiments were deactivated on July 4, 1946, when the Philippines received its independence.

Unfortunately, the Filipino U.S. Army veterans of those regiments who chose not to continuing serving in the U.S. Army when the Philippines gained their independence were treated shabby by the United States and its government they had loyally served.

Until his death in 2013, Ed Ramsey worked with persistence to gain recognition of the Filipinos by the U.S. Government. He was aided

by many Americans in this effort who carried on his work after his death. On July 5, 1964, he was recognized by the Philippine government for his efforts on behalf of the Filipino people.

On October 25, 2017, 75 years after Filipino World War II veterans joined the U.S. to defeat Japan, they were formally recognized by Congress for their service and sacrifice and were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Colonel Edwin Ramsey was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on July 21, 2018, at the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society reunion.

Sergeant Julian Almonte, Troop G, 26th Cavalry

Editor's Notes

By Trooper Sam Young

I hope you are enjoying the first: U.S. Cavalry Association Digital Edition of The Cavalry Journal. The great thing is there is no cost to the U.S. Cavalry Association for its production or delivery. It has been created by volunteer members of the Association.

USCA hopes that if you like it, you would send a charitable donation (which is tax deductible) to help the Association with its operating expenses. Please mail it to U.S. Cavalry Association, 7107 West Cheyenne Street, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036-2153. Make your check payable to the U.S. Cavalry Association. If you desire to donate by credit card, please call USCA at 405-422-6330.

Also, if you desire to join the U.S. Cavalry Association, the information is on page 34 of this digital Journal.

Please send your letters and article ideas to me at **journaleditor@uscavalry.org** or to my home address: Samuel Young, 712 Englewood Street, Lansing, KS 66043.

Distinguished Service Cross

CITATION

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Major (Cavalry) Thomas John Hall Trapnell, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of the 26th Cavalry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, in action against enemy forces while the U.S. Cavalry engaged in rear guard action on 22 December 1941, in the Philippine Islands. During a concentration of enemy fire from tanks and infantry, Major Trapnell remained between the hostile forces and his own troops and set on fire a truck on a bridge somewhere in Launion Province. Then he waited calmly until the bridge had burned before leaving in a scout car to rejoin his troops. Major Trapnell's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Major Trapnell graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1927. He survived the Bataan Death March following the Battle of the Philippines in 1942. He remained a prisoner of war until he was rescued in 1944 by Russian forces in Manchuria. He retired as a U.S. Army Lieutenant General.

Distinguished Service Cross

Private First Class Pedro Euperio, United States Army, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company E, 26th Cavalry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, in action against enemy forces on 16 January 1942. Private First Class Euperio's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army

Distinguished Service Cross

General Douglas MacArthur, on 13 June 1945, personally awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to Major Edwin P. Ramsey for his guerrilla activities from April 1942 – June 1945.

Watch Colonel Ramsey's internment at Arlington National Cemetery, 4 July 2013.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqfFXjqBTbQ

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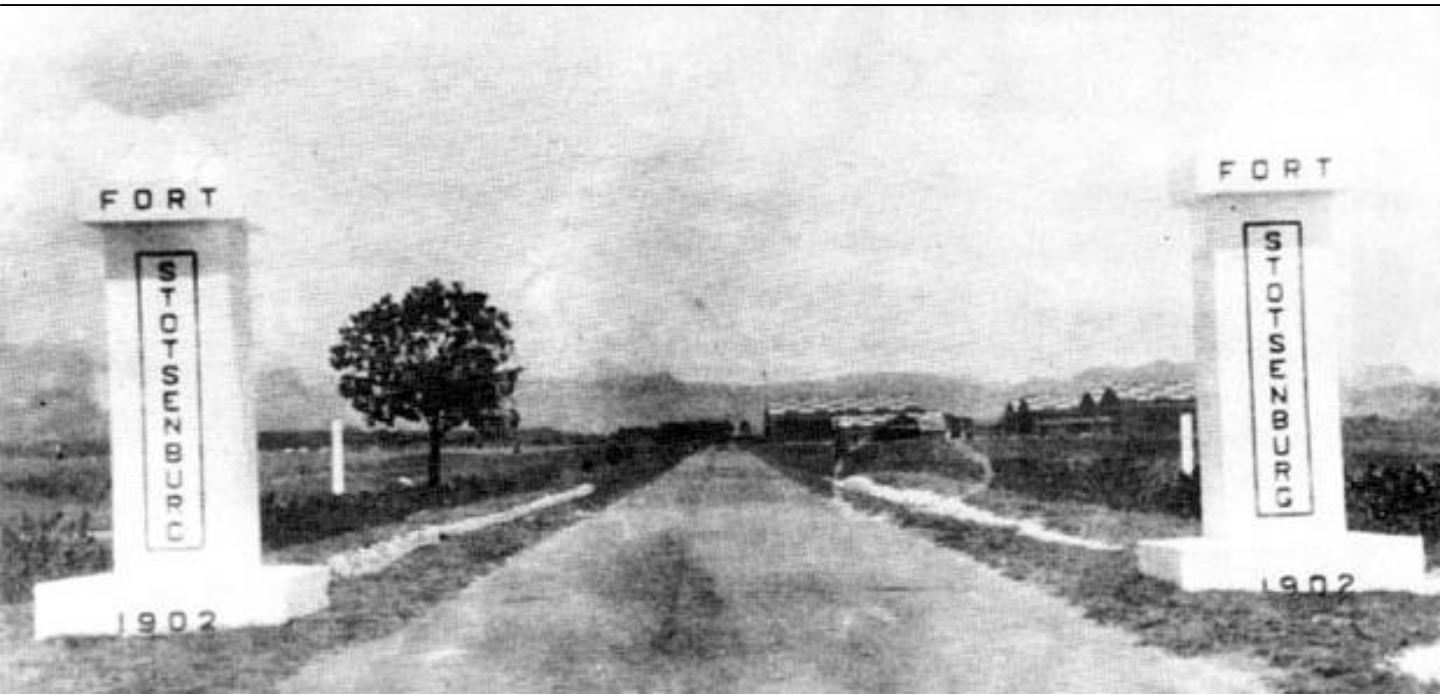

Fort Stotsenburg – Home of the 26th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts)


JOHN M. STOTSENBURG
COLONEL 1ST NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
CAPTAIN 6TH U.S.CAVALRY
KILLED IN ACTION
APRIL 23.1899.