

Edwin Price Ramsey

Lt. Colonel (Ret.), U.S. Army

Ramsey is widely hailed for his role as a guerrilla leader behind enemy lines during World War II after Japan invaded the Philippines. His exploits—including the last wartime mounted horse cavalry charge in U.S. history—are chronicled in his autobiography, "Lt. Ramsey's War."

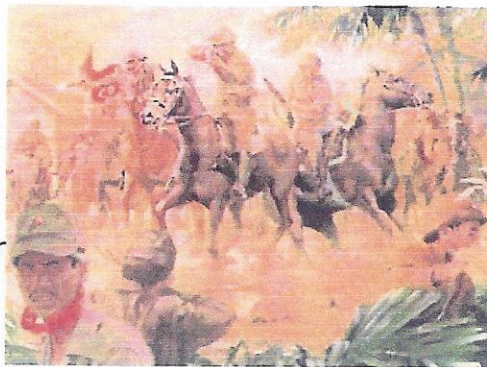


Born on May 9, 1917, in Springfield, IL, Ed Ramsey grew up in the Midwest. As a

teenager attending the Oklahoma Military Academy, he became an avid polo player, and after graduating, he was commissioned a second lieutenant with the fabled 11th Cavalry. His first posting: Campo, in San Diego County. His fateful first overseas posting was Ft. Stotsenburg in the Philippines, where he arrived June 1941. Six months later, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and after the fall of the Philippines in April 1942, rather than surrender, Ramsey and comrades in the 26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts, escaped from Bataan and took to the jungle to wage a three-year guerrilla war against the Japanese. In February

1943, he assumed command of the guerrilla force after the capture and later execution of his friend Capt. Joe Barker. At one point, Ramsey ranked number-one on the Japanese occupation force's most-wanted list. Narrowly escaping death on numerous occasions, racked by dysentery, malaria and other diseases, he nevertheless commanded a fighting force in East Central Luzon that numbered more than 40,000 at its peak. When Gen. Douglas MacArthur fulfilled his pledge to return to the Philippines, Ramsey emerged from the jungle weighing barely 90 pounds. In June 1945, MacArthur pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on him.

Hailed as a hero by successive generations of Filipinos and a friend of every president of the Philippines from Quezon to Fidel Ramos, Ramsey visited the country often, and lived in the Philippines in the late Forties and the Seventies and Eighties. Americans were largely unaware of Ramsey's historic exploits until 1991, when "Lt. Ramsey's War," co-authored by Stephen Rivele, was published and excerpted in



Ramsey and wife Raquel

"Reader's Digest" worldwide. Film rights to the book are currently held by New Line Cinema. Veterans groups and the general public have kept the book continuously in print, and Ramsey has crisscrossed the country doing book signings and giving speeches. His heroism has been recognized with honors and awards aplenty. Among them: Ramsey led a contingent of mounted U.S. horse cavalry in the 1996 Rose Bowl Parade; became an honorary Green Beret; accepted the top award of the U.S. Horse Cavalry Association; and in April 2002, received a Heroes Award from the Washington D.C. USO.

Ramsey used his newfound fame to champion the cause of Filipino veterans. He testified twice on Capitol Hill, urging Congress to make good on a fifty-year-old promise to pay benefits to Filipinos who fought for the U.S. Army

Ramsey resides in Los Angeles with his Filipina-born wife Raquel Ramirez Ramsey, a teacher and administrator at Beverly Hills High School. He has four children. His son Doug lives in San Diego, as do numerous close family friends including Lee and Roz Levenson, and Ed and Suzanne Ward.