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**THE SHROUDED SIGNIFICANCDE OF  
BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR**

*This treatise is dedicated to all the WW=II veterans  
who served in the United States Armed Forces in the Far East  
specially the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.*

**ARAW NG KAGITINGAN 1998**

*By franco f. arcebal*

*ww-II veteran*



THE SHROUDED SIGNIFICANCE  
OF  
BATAAN AND CORRIDOR

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The Filipino and American heroes and veterans of Bataan and Corregidor, although their battles culminated in an ignominious defeat, ought to be proud of their essential contribution in safeguarding the freedom of the of the United States of America particularly during her darkest hours in WW-II.

These servicemen in the Philippines numbering 149,000 together with about 26,000 non-combatant shared the burdens of the United States in the defense of freedom, justice and democracy which we still continue to enjoy. They bequeath such legacy even to the coming generations.

In that historic episode several facts need to be unveiled if only to reminisce and savor the value of their services during that war. I would like to share some of these with you today.

No doubt everyone of us knows the ignominious defeat of the United States in 1942 to Japan in the defense of the Philippine archipelago, an organized territory of the United States. It was very important primarily because it disrupted the time-table of Japan and gave the allied forces enough breathing spell to rebound, carry out the offensive and came out victorious.

But why take pride of the defeat! What value has defeat for commemoration purposes?

Is defeat the reason why the United States does not adequately commemorate the saga of BATAAN and CORREGIDOR, nor appropriately appreciate the gallantry and heroism of their own duly constituted UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST?

You may also be wondering why only half a century later, not earlier, did a US President (President William J. Clinton) issue a proclamation (on October 17, 1996) honoring only the Filipino WW-II veterans with these words:

*"...proclaiming October 20, 1996 a day of honoring the Filipino Veterans of WW-II."*

He continued, *"I urge all Americans to recall the courage, sacrifices and loyalty of Filipino veterans of WW-II and honor them for their contribution to our freedom."<sup>1</sup>*

I REPEAT: "...honor them for their contribution to our freedom."

How about the American soldiers? and non-combatants?

Although President Clinton prepared the Proclamation within the context of the landing of the American Forces in Leyte, the presidential proclamation (October 17, 1996) extols the overall contribution of the Filipino Soldier during the entire duration of war in the Philippine arena. However, Filipino WW-II veterans are bitterly disappointed because it failed to recognize their military services in the Armed Forces of the United States. it merely sets aside one day (October 20, 1996), three day thereafter, to commemorate such a significant day.

How about the saga of Bataan and Corregidor? Is the U.S. defeat in the Philippines forgotten! Only their victories remembered?

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<sup>1</sup> A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION by the President of the United States (Hon. William J. Clinton) dated October 17, 1996 honoring the Filipino Veterans of World War II

Try to recall this fact which has long been forgotten.

While the Philippine Islands were occupied by the Imperial Japanese Forces, on June 29, 1944, when President Roosevelt signed the Senate Joint Resolution #93 dated May 22, 1944, he issued the following statement:

*"We are ever mindful of the heroic role of the Philippines and their people in the present conflict. Theirs is the only substantial area and theirs the only substantial population under the American flag to suffer lengthy invasion by the enemy."<sup>2</sup>*

So how could the American public and political leaders fully recognize the military services of the Filipino soldiers in the Armed Forces of the United States, while all along the majority of the Americans keep erroneously believing that the Filipino people and troops during the war did not really fight to keep the American flag flying in that territory, but rather fought the Japanese in defense of their homeland.

Now, at this vantage point, some 60 years after President Roosevelt issued the Military Order federalizing all organized units of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the Armed Forces of the United States (July 26, 1941), I wish to reminisce with you some of the facts surrounding that historic event and let us savor their intrinsic values.

On the American side, the treacherous bombing of Pearl Harbor, the bitter loss of American territories and investments in China and in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, specially in the Philippines, was marked by the humiliating surrender of American troops and the incarceration of American civilians in the hands of a non-caucasian oriental power.

<sup>2</sup> Record of Congress ACR-1 A591

On the Japanese side, this was the highest point in the victory of Japan over western adversaries; this event made a mockery of western imperialists, specially the Americans who, not only advocated democracy, but also initiated their own version of economic imperialism in the American continent and extending now it to the Asia-Pacific region.

But to the Filipino people, it was a demonstration of valor. The day of surrender is memorialized as the ARAW NG KAGITINGAN (Day of Valor), not simply because the Filipino contingent of the USAFFE fought gallantly in those battles. More than that, I found out, in my library researches, many untold significance of Bataan and Corregidor.

I wish to present these findings to substantiate four consequential conclusions.

#### 1 - First deduction:

I found out that the Filipino troops were direfully needed at that time by the United States. The Philippine Commonwealth Army was designed by the American Advisers to serve as part of the U.S. defense plan. This reality could be seen through existing circumstances at that time, such as the following:-

1. The Defense Act of 1920 limited the force of the US Army and Air Corps to a maximum of 280,000 officers and men

2. On January 28, 1932 Japan completely conquered Manchuria (invaded after the MUKDEN INCIDENT on Sept. 18, 1931), established a puppet government, and opened a military offensive in China.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Toland, John THE RISING SUN PP 6-9

In accordance with the "Non-recognition Theory" initiated by Secretary of State, Henry L. Stimson, the invasion of China was considered an act of war against the members of the League of Nations, of which the U.S.A. is a member.<sup>4</sup>

(NOTE: Some historians consider the invasion of China as the real start of WW-II.)

3. On December 12, 1932 China and Communist Russia restored diplomatic relations by signing a treaty. At this time Japan feared a joint Russian-Chinese pressure upon Japanese possessions in North China.

4. On March 27, 1933 Japan, an ally of the United States during the first world war and now the only industrialized power in Asia, quit the League of Nations. Prime Minister Okada surrendered to the pressure groups in Japan that kept clamoring for naval parity with Great Britain and the USA. Japan was no longer restricted in building up her navy, thus becoming one of the naval super-powers of the world.

5. In 1933, Russia adopted special measures to encourage migration to the maritime province of Siberia. This created great suspicions in Japan regarding the purpose of Russian migration. Japan anticipated that Russia had a long range plan to communize China and then eventually control a large portion of Asia.<sup>5</sup> While Japan was at war with China, the USSR joined the League of Nations the following year (September 18, 1934).

<sup>4</sup> Tansil, Charles BACKDOOR TO WAR  
The Roosevelt Foreign Policy p. 103

<sup>5</sup> Ibid pp. 137-138

So Japan visualized an agreement with the United States with the hope of erecting a common front against the foes of capitalism which would stress a desire to promote trade to the mutual advantage of both countries and make secure the principles of equal opportunity of commerce in the Asia-Pacific region. The declaration could include a pledge binding each nation to respect territorial possessions and restate their determination to maintain peace and amity.

The new US President, Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933) and his Secretary of State Cordell Hull refused to be drawn into an executive agreement that would announce America's acceptance of Japan's position in North China.<sup>6</sup> They adopted instead a policy of supporting China.

This situation pushed Japan to the edge.

Such agreement would have changed the history of the United States' relations in the Asia-Pacific region. The USA and Japan would not have been protagonists in W-II. The Filipino people, still fighting for its self-rule and later on expecting to be independent in 1946, would not have been set into a very precarious situation. The Philippine archipelago would have been saved from devastation.

6. Before the infamous Pearl Harbor incident the American People were complacent with their continental seclusion; they felt comfortably sanitized by two great ocean barriers from possible invasion by any Asian or European power.

7. A War College Committee in Washington, DC, under the guidance of Majors Dwight Eisenhower (who became a U.S.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid...pp. 139

President after the war) and James Ord devised a plan for the defense of the Archipelago based on Gen. MacArthur's ideas.

8. On March 24, 1934, The Philippine Independence Act was enacted into law. It provides for Philippine Independence after a 10 year transition period of Commonwealth Government.

This Act authorized the President of the United States "... to call into the service of such armed forces (U.S. armed forces in the Philippines) all military forces organized by the Philippine government."(Sec. 2(a)12, PL 73-127)

9. In 1934 Japan turned to Germany. So, a new global alliances begun to shape, a situation that gradually precipitated the war.

10. Based upon the designs of the War College Committee and the influence of General MacArthur, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and concurrently the Military Adviser to President Quezon, the Philippine Legislature enacted into law the Philippine Defense Act (December 21, 1935) envisioning a 10,000 regular Commonwealth Army force and a 400,000 reserve force.<sup>7</sup>

11. General Douglas MacArthur was the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army from 1930-1935, so he was definitely aware of the numerical limitations of the U.S. Army when he was sent to the Philippines by Secretary of War George Dern as Head of the Military Advisory Mission, while he was still the Chief of Staff.

<sup>7</sup> PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, The US Army Campaigns of World War II. US Government Printing Office, 1952 302-267 p. 5

War

As military Adviser to President Quezon, and then the Commander of the USAFFE, General MacArthur was privy to these information and global as well as local situations at that time.

12. Barely one months after the outbreak of WW-II when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, the United States further amended on October 3, 1939<sup>8</sup> the Neutrality Act of August 1935 and May 1937. **The law provides that only for the defense of the States of the Union would Americans risk their lives in war.**

13. General George Marshall reported that at the outbreak of WW-II, the United States Army had less than 200,000 troop strength (below the 280,000 authorized strength) scattered all over continental USA, Hawaii, Philippines and Panama. The United States ranked 17th among the world's armed forces.

*From these facts, it should not be difficult to adduce that the defense plan recommended by Gen. MacArthur, Majors Dwight Eisenhower and James Ord - that of raising an unusually extra large reserve force of 400,000 for the meagerly funded Commonwealth government - really envisioned the utilization of these Filipino soldiers by the United States in case the ongoing turmoil in the Far East, which is 7000 miles away from San Francisco, erupts into an armed conflict.*

## II - Second Deduction:

The Filipino soldier carried the greater burden of defense along side with the American troops during the Japanese campaign in

<sup>8</sup> THE HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WORLD WAR II, Facts On File, Inc. (Publisher) p. 528

the Philippines from December of 1941 to May of 1942. We can visualize this from the following facts between the protagonists:

1. The major landings of Japanese Forces in the Philippines in 1941:<sup>9</sup>

Dec. 12	Legaspi.....	2,500
Dec. 22	Lingayen.....	43,110
Dec. 24	Lamon Bay.....	7,000
Dec. 24	Davao.....	5,000
Feb.-Mar	Bataan	<u>18,500</u> (Reinforcements)
	TOTAL.....	76,110

In February and March General Homma received a large reinforcement of 18,500 men and 60 twin engine bombers. (The 4<sup>th</sup> Division arrived from Shanghai with 11,000 men followed by the Magno Detachment of 4,000 men; and the 3,500 more men that replaced the losses in Bataan.)

2. A total of 118,000 officers and enlisted men (including trainees and ROTC) of the Commonwealth Army were totally federalized and placed under the command of general officers of the U.S. Army, in compliance with USAFFE General Order No. 46 dated December 18, 1941.

The USAFFE is composed of 149,000 officers and enlisted men, as follows:

Regular U.S. Army troops...	19,000	(13%)
Philippine Scouts.....	12,000	( 8%)
Commonwealth Army.....	118,000	(79%)

(Note: As of January 7th, 1942, General Homma believed there were 45,000 American and 10,000 Filipino troops in Bataan. In his calculation, he was still conducting a pursuit operation rather than a siege. He was surprised at the formidable resistance he encountered; he was appalled by the high number of their casualties. He had to ask for reinforcements (18,500 men).

3. The SURRENDEREES, DEATH MARCHERS AND CAMP O'DONNELL PRISONERS.

#### THE SURRENDEREES

At Bataan, April 9, 1942 (104,000)  
 Commonwealth Army..... 66,000 (63.5 %)  
 U.S. Army & Phil. Scouts.....12,000 (11.5 %)  
 Non-Combatant Civilians.....26,000 (25 %)

At Corregidor, May 6, 1942 (66,000)  
 Commonwealth Army.... 45,000 (68 %)  
 USArmy & Phil. Scouts.. 21,000 (32 %)

Total SURRENDEREES (Combatants) (144,000)  
 Commonwealth Army..... 111,000 (77 %)  
 USArmy & P.S..... 33,000 (33 %)

The DEATH MARCHERS (73,000)  
 Commonwealth Army..... 63,000 (86.3 %)  
 USArmy & Phil. Scouts..... 10,000 (13.7 %)

The PRISONERS in Camp O'Donnell (52,000)  
 Commonwealth Army..... 42,600 (82.%)  
 USArmy & Phil. Scouts.... 9,400 (18 %)

DEATH at Camp O'Donnell (17,000)

<sup>9</sup> PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (USGPO) 302-267, pp. 11 & 14

Commonwealth Army.....	15,400	(90.6%)
USArmy & Phil. Scouts...	1,600	(9.4%)

### III - Third Deduction.

The Filipino troops, who were federated into the Armed Forces of the United States, were not involved in World War II primarily for the self-serving interests of the Filipinos but under the direction, control and command of general officers of the U.S. Army for the purposes and objectives of the U.S. government.

Note that the Commonwealth Government had no foreign affairs function and the defense of the archipelago is a mandated responsibility of the United States until July 4, 1946. The Commonwealth Government had no power and control of its armed forces while they were federalized by the President of the United States (Franklin.D.Roosevelt.) - not until they were turned over back to the Commonwealth government of the Philippines, by the next President of the United States (Pres. Harry Truman) on June 30, 1946, just before the granting of Independence (July 4, 1946).

On February 8, 1942, at the Malinta Tunnel Headquarters of the USAFFE and at the same time the seat of the Commonwealth Government, President Quezon growing despondent of America's timidity and inaction, after consulting General MacArthur and Francis B. Sayre, U.S. High Commissioner to the Philippines, contemplated a separate peace negotiation with Japan. He was imbued with the desire to preserve the Philippines and Filipino people from further destruction, knowing pretty well that the archipelago is indefensible.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Schaller, Michael DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, The Far Eastern General, pp. 59-60

Quezon's proposal to safeguard the purely Filipino interests was turned down by President Roosevelt, who was likewise imbued but with a broader perspective beyond that of Quezon's concern for the moment.

Take a good look at this scenario. President Quezon suggested by radio to President Roosevelt that if the U.S. would remove its troops from the Philippines and grant independence to the Islands, he would do his best to persuade the Japanese to remove their troops. Francis B. Sayre, realizing the situation, approved of the proposal.

General MacArthur concurred. He sent this message to President Roosevelt:

*"So far as the military angle is concerned, the problem presents itself as to whether the plan of President Quezon might offer the best possible solution as to what is about to be a disastrous debacle. ...Please instruct me."*

President Roosevelt vetoed the plan of President Quezon and sent this message in reply to General MacArthur:

*"American forces will continue to keep our flag flying in the Philippines so long as there remains any possible resistance. I have made this decision in complete understanding of your military estimate that accompanied President Quezon's message to me. The duty and necessity of resisting Japanese aggression to the last transcends in importance any other obligation now facing us in the Philippines."*

*"... There has been gradually welded into a common front a globe encircling opposition to the predatory powers that are seeking the destruction of individual liberty and freedom of government. We cannot afford this line broken in any particular theater. As the most powerful member of this coalition, we cannot display weakness in fact or in spirit anywhere."*

*"I therefore give you the most difficult mission in full understanding of the desperate situation to which you may shortly be reduced.*

*"I authorize you to arrange for the capitulation of the Filipino elements of the defense forces when and if in your opinion that course appears necessary and always having in mind that the Filipino troops are in the service of the United States."<sup>11</sup>*

(Note: General MacArthur replied: "My plans have already been outlined in previous radios; they consist of fighting (only) present battle position in Bataan to destruction and then holding Corregidor in a similar manner. I have not the slightest intention in the world of surrendering or capitulating the Filipino elements of my command... there has never been the slightest wavering among the troops. I count on them equally with the Americans to hold steadfast to the end."<sup>12</sup>

He did not enjoin the Filipino troops to capitulate when he left Corregidor for Australia. Rather, he provided the troops with hope of reprieve and encouraged them to intensify their fight against the enemy by promising them "I SHALL RETURN.")

#### V - Final Deduction.

Despite the fact that the Philippines was considered by American military experts as indefensible at that time, and the defense ended as expected in defeat, the long and valiant defense of the archipelago for a period of five months, had several consequences favorable to the United States. Some of these were:-

1. The 150 days defense delayed the Japanese time-table considerably. This reduced the chance of Japanese invasion of Australia which later became the launching pad of the allied forces and from there reversed the Japanese fortunes. [Note: Like the Americans in the continental U.S.A., the Australians did not experience bombs dropped over their heads as we did in the Philippines.]

2. The protracted battles cost Japan far more loss of manpower and materiel than they had anticipated and proportionately reduced their capacity for aggressive purposes or defensive actions.

3. The determined Philippine resistance against overwhelming odds became a symbol of hope of the United States in the early and bleak days of the Pacific War.<sup>13</sup>

(Note: At the outset, Americans opposed any possible engagement of their sons and husbands in the European war or any where else unless it is for the defense of the continental United States. But the five months ordeal of American troops and imprisonment of American citizens in Manila opened their eyes to the stark realities of war. They face the prospect of invasion from the Axis powers unless they take an early offensive action outside the continent.)

4. The American people got motivated in the home front, specially in the overall task of building up the armaments of war that would become instrumental to allied victory over the axis powers.

<sup>11</sup> Merie Miller, IKE, The Soldier *As They Knew Him*

pp.341-342

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. p. 342

<sup>13</sup> Phil. Islands, The USARMY Campaign of World War II p22



5. Emboldened by the epic events of Bataan and Corregidor, young and able bodied Americans crowded recruitment centers eagerly enlisting for active service in the armed forces.

6. General MacArthur, despite his differences with President Roosevelt, by virtue of the dramatic events of that debacle, became America's symbol of the determination and the pledge to retake the Far East and the desire to write off the military adventures of Japan.

7. America became released from the freeze on account of the crucibles that was Bataan and Corregidor. Despite barely a decade after the great depression of the 30's, the U.S.A. indulged in a super massive production of military, air and naval hardware, far beyond her own national defense requirements .

8. The strong rousing value of Bataan and Corregidor was expressed by President Roosevelt by these words which he conveyed by radio to General Jonathan Wainwright, who assumed Command of the beleaguered USAFFE at Corregidor – *“In every camp, in every naval vessel, soldiers, sailors, and marines are impressed by the gallant struggle of their comrades in the Philippines. The workers in our shipyards and munitions plants redoubled their efforts because of your examples. You and your devoted followers become the living symbol of our war aims and the guarantee of our victory.”*<sup>14</sup>

9. When the surrender finally came , the so called **Battling Bastards of Bataan** inspired their comrades-in-arms in the Pacific to honor such sacrifices by vowing to retake what was lost - the honor and territory - and raise their flag where it was trampled upon.

10. At the end of the war, the U.S. War Production Board, in charge of producing the instruments of war, reported the following total production:

71,000 ships  
86,388 tanks  
296, 001 aircraft's  
15,000,000 troops (10 Million -USArmy alone.)

It took the USA this tremendous power to turn the tide in favor of the allies and win the war.

Hopefully, this summation of strength will never be assembled again, nor surpassed, by any nation; and if ever, by no other than the USA.]

#### CONCLUSIONS:

The Filipino soldiers, officers and enlisted men, who served during the period from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 in the Armed Forces of the United States in response to the military order of the United States and subsequent orders issued by general officers of the United States Army and who were honorably discharged, were legitimate members of the Armed Forces of the United States during an armed conflict, and as such, the legislative rider to the first Recission Act of 1946, depriving the Filipino WW-II veterans from rights, privileges and benefits granted by U.S. laws to WW-II veterans of the United States, is unjust and discriminatory and therefore the U.S. government is obliged to equitably rectify the injustice done to them.. The following points reinforces this conclusion.

1. The President's Military Order had the force and effect of a Federal Statute, by virtue of the Constitution of the United States Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States and according to the provisions of the Philippine Independence Act of 1946.

<sup>14</sup> Lt. Gen. E.M. Flanagan, Jr USA (Ret.) CORREGIDOR.  
The Rock Force Assault, 1945, p. 77

2. The Philippine Commonwealth Army lost its organic integrity when it was federalized into the USAFFE.

3. The Philippine Archipelago was not a foreign country to the United States (not an allied country) during WW-II. The Commonwealth had no foreign affairs function and therefore could not declare neutrality nor declare war; neither could she surrender the Commonwealth Army forces to the Japanese invaders.

4. The Filipino soldiers who served during the war were born in a territory of the United States and therefore nationals of the United States before July 4<sup>th</sup> 1946; as citizens they owe allegiance to the United States. In the service, they were made to pledge allegiance to the American Flag and subject to U.S. Court-Martial.

5. Their salaries were paid by the United States taxpayers; their ammunitions, their military hardware, their clothing and armory etc. were all supplied by the United States government.

6. They were not mercenaries, nor hired workers; nor slaves. They were not merely subjected to certain contractual obligations but beyond that they risked their unrepeatable life with loyalty to the American Flag.

7. The Philippine Islands was organized as a territory of the United States by the United States Congress; the Philippine Commonwealth was created by the United States Congress. The Filipino soldiers were all born in this American territory and have an inherent constitutional right as American citizens (jus soli principle) when they were called to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States; thus, they are obliged to serve in defense of American sovereignty.

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About the writer.

Franco F. Arcebal, ASN 221117, rendered military service in a recognized Guerrilla Unit, the US ARMY FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES - North Luzon (USAFIP-ML) led by Col. Russell W. Volckman (West Point, Class '34), in the Medical Company of the 14th Inf. Reg. which operated within the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Mountain Province (Date Of Recognition: 1 October 1943 as amended (from 9 January 1945.)

Prior to his induction, in the middle of July 1944 while on his way to Echague, Isabela for a business venture on a horse rig(caromata), he volunteered to join his lone passenger Sgt. Jose Tumayo, Co .C, 14th Inf. Reg., on an information gathering mission along the Northern Luzon highway(from Nueva Viscaya to La Union via Cagayan) dubbed as "HORSE SHOE MISSION) with focus on the military strength and placements of Japanese Forces along the route. After rendering their report to the Intelligence Officer of the 121st Inf. (then Major Eulogio Balao) while on their return trip they were captured, upon the aid of counter-intelligence report, at the Japanese check-point at the bridge at Bayugao, Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur. Severely tortured for four days without food nor water, they were finally sentenced to death by decapitation at sunrise on August 24, 1944 at the Garrison at Candon, Ilocos Sur. However, they escaped the sentence barely 2-1/2 hours through a short tunnel they themselves dug out under cover of darkness during that night underneath the wall of the earthen-floored DEATH CHAMBER (tersely called Monkey House by the Japanese).

After recuperating with the assistance of Bolomen (guerrilla support group) at Galimayod, Ilocos Sur, they traversed the huge mountain range (Mt. Pulog) via Tirad Pass, Sagada then Hapao within 16 days and finally returned to the home unit(14th Inf. Reg.).

He was formally inducted into the service on November 1, 1944 and honorably discharged on November 20, 1945.

Since becoming a member of UFAV (March 1988 and a U.S. Citizen (10 August 1988) he has been continuously involved with the Filipino WW-II veterans' pursuit, through legislation in the US Congress for equitable benefit.

The basic contents of the foregoing address to the surviving veterans of Bataan and Corregidor were drawn from the research materials availed from the public libraries of the cities of Los Angeles, Buena Park and Anaheim, California, USA.

The gist of the foregoing treatise was delivered by Franco F. Arcebal at the Commemoration of the ARAW NG KAGITINGAN at the Philippine Consulate, Los Angeles, California, on April 9, 1999.



9-14-10

C-2

HOW THE FILIPINOS  
GOT INVOLVED IN THE WAR  
BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE USA  
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

By franco f. arcebal  
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Anaheim, California, USA



## PROLOGUE

The significance of the role of the Filipino soldier in WW-II under the Armed Forces of the United States of America could better be appreciated by looking at the wider panorama of world events in which the United States interacted concerning the issues in the Asia Pacific Region before the war broke out between Japan and the USA.

I had always wondered about three perplexing issues:

- (1) What made Japan and the USA become belligerent towards each other the fact they were allies during the first world war (1914-1917) and Japan, in 1940, was the second largest trading partner of the USA after Great Britain. What were the primary conflicts that existed between them that could be settled only by war.
- (2) War being resorted to between Japan and the U.S.A. what made President Roosevelt, knowing that the Philippine Archipelago is indeed indefensible at that time, reject the radiogram proposition of Philippine Commonwealth President Quezon (from Corregidor February 18, 1942) which was not opposed by Francis B. Sayre, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur - for an outright independence of the Philippine Archipelago so that he could declare NEUTRALITY in order to avert further loss of lives of Filipinos and unnecessary damages in the Philippines.
- (3) What was the justification of the U.S. Congress in not deeming my military service in war under the American Flag and the direction and command of General Officers of the U.S. Army, in the defense of their colony, the Philippine Islands, as active service for purposes of rights, privileges or benefits granted by law of the United States.

So I gathered bits of information and data from books available from the public libraries of the City of Buena Park; City of Anaheim; and City of Los Angeles. I discovered more than the answer to my curiosity. I compiled them in chronological order for my own consumption. I turned out to be quite interesting, so I want to share these information to those who are likewise interest on this topic.

PART - I

ASIAN PANORAMA  
OF  
CONFLICTING INTERESTS  
AMONG WORLD POWERS  
PRIOR TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

## THE IMPERIAL COMPETITION IN ASIA

During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, practically all the powerful nations (i.e., Great Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the Netherlands,) were consumed with the desire to outdo each other in adding territorial gains, for wealth, power and prestige. Among themselves, they form alliances from time to time depending upon existing commonality of interest. Partners in alliances change many times over in a period of a hundred years; today's partners in alliance by culture or by treaty would become enemies tomorrow. And while their alliance or conflict continue, the small countries or subjugated colonies take all the shock of whatever impact the changes bring to them.

Take a look at the colonies during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century., The European colonizers in North, Central and South America are Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal; In Africa, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, France. In Southeast Asia the colonizers are France, Great Britain, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal. Obviously the major languages spoken in the former colonies are a heritage that reveal their subjugation in the past

During the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, China with a population of about 450 million was the natural target of imperialistic powers.

## SCHOOLS OF THOUGHTS IN THE USA BEFORE 1900 FAR ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN

Only 47 years since the United States independence (July 4, 1776) President James Monroe (1817-1825) established the "Monroe Doctrine" (adopted December 2, 1823) the principle of non-interference with colonies and dependencies of European powers and respect for sovereign and independent states.

Nevertheless, the leaders of the thirteen original States of the Union succeeded in organizing new territories:

Texas	(1836)	entered the Union on	December. 29, 1845);
California	(1847	entered the Union on	September. 9, 1850;
Oregon	(1848)	entered the union on	February. 14, 1859;
New Mexico	(1850)	entered the Union on	January. 6, 1912
Washington	(1853)	entered the Union on	November 11, 1889
Colorado	(1861)	entered the Union on	August 1, 1861
Arizona	(1863)	entered the Union on	February 18, 1912
Nevada	(1861)''''''	the Union on	October 31, 1864

Right after the Civil War (1861-1865) settled, new thoughts began to brew up among the political and economic leaders of this new country. By that time she produced more wheat, steel and oil more than the actual need for her small population of 50 millions. Ambitious leaders began to consider the vast potential of exporting their products to the colonies of Great Britain (who recognized the USA in 1782).

[Note: Colonies that does not speak English would certainly make it difficult for America to trade with them. American policy had to be made parallel to the British policy as a matter of necessity and good diplomacy.

With the declining hold of Great Britain over anti-foreign sentiments and revolutionary movement in many of her territories around the globe, in the same manner that Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands are experiencing in their respective territories, American leader also began to explore new markets across the Pacific Ocean.

During the administration of President Ulysses Grant (1869-1877) there was a school of thought among prominent scholars, businessmen and politicians who were in favor of establishing "coaling stations" en route to the Far East , with an eye at the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the vast Pacific ocean and in Formosa, Bonin Islands or the Philippine Archipelago in the Far East as possible areas, for commercial steamships and naval vessels as well.

Furthermore, many were imbued with the "White Man's Mission to spread civilization to Asia, Africa and the Americas, specially the Protestant Church, who desire to Christianize China and Japan.

Conclusively, Naval and Military bases in the Asia-Pacific region is a must for the United States of American if she were to expand her economic and civilizing arms across the Pacific Ocean.

THE PHILIPPINE REVOLT AGAINST SPAIN (1896-1898) and  
THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898) OPENED THE OPPORTUNITY  
FOR THE USA TO HAVE A NAVAL BASE IN THE FAR EAST.

The coincidence of the nationwide revolt in the Philippines and in Cuba against Spain and the war declared (April 19, 1898) by the USA against Spain to settle their dispute on Cuban matters, led the US Navy to engage the Spanish Armada in the Philippine

Before the hostilities began, Commodore George Dewey was in China assisting the Chinese government combat the "Boxer Rebellion", an anti-foreigner uprising in China. Hongkong, a British Colony and port, was used by Commodore Dewey as a temporary station for that mission.

As the war escalated, Dewey was instructed by President William McKinley to prepare and proceed to Manila Bay. On May 1, 1898, the US Navy invaded Manila Bay and engaged the Spanish Armada which was annihilated within a four-hour battle. The defeat of the naval armada of a great power that was Spain signaled the entry of the USA among world powers

From the point of view of the Filipinos, the combined efforts of the Katipunan and the US Navy ended the 377 years of Spanish dominion (1521 – 1898) over the Philippine Archipelago. General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Katipunan (KKK), proclaimed independence of the Philippines (June 12, 1898) and established a Republican form of government, the first of its kind among European colonies in Asia.

But another power play astounded the new republic. The archipelago was ceded by Spain to the United States under the Treaty of Paris (December 10, 1898) ratified by the US Senate by a majority of one on February 3, 1899.

Considering this a perfidious act on the part of the US leaders, President Aguinaldo declared war against the USA (February 4, 1899).

THE ISSUE: WHETHER TO COLONIZE THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, OR NOT.

This was indeed a big question for President Wm. McKinley (1897-1901) who himself had a strong tendency towards making the USA a non-colonizer and in favor of the Monroe Doctrine amidst the territorial successes a few decades ago and the constantly growing imperialistic trends of many influential political and military leaders at that time.

At the time he ordered Commodore Dewey to invade Manila Bay, the idea of securing a Naval Base was predominant in his mind. However, certain views, interests and circumstances combined within a very short span of time helped in the formulation of the United States policy of occupation of the entire archipelago, namely:

1. The accident of war with Spain.
2. The presence of four strong leaders and advocates of expansion in Asia (Henry Cabot Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt, Admiral Mahan and Commodore Dewey).
3. Victory of Commodore Dewey at Manila Bay; this victory marked the emergence of the USA as a world power.
4. The imperialist competitions in Asia.
5. The missionary enthusiasm of the Protestant Churches in the USA
6. The widespread belief that "White Power" must spread civilization in all the corners of the earth.
7. The costly consequence of the hostilities of Filipinos against the American occupation forces.

Although President Aguinaldo was captured in 1902, a guerrilla war of resistance continued until 1904 when the Filipino leaders were convinced of the "*Benevolent Assimilation*" policy of the USA under President McKinley (assassinated in 1901) and continued by his Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt (President from 1901 to 1909). □

It cost the United States \$600 millions to win the war, 2,818 men wounded, 4,234 dead troops. On the other hand, about 16,000 Filipino troops died and about one million civilians perished on a very protracted war of attrition (1899-1904).

But on the side of the United States, they viewed the war against Spain in the Philippines (including Puerto Rico and Cuba) differently. General Arthur MacArthur, the US Commander (1900) of



the Armed Forces of the USA in the Philippines, and father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, described that war as "one of the first modern wars for national liberation."

#### THE U.S. CONGRESS SETTLED THE COLONY ISSUE.

The Cooper Act of 1902 (PL 57-235) entitled "An Act Temporarily to provide for the administration of the affairs of the civil government in the Philippine Islands and for other purposes." was enacted into law on July 1, 1902 during the Administration of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. This law organized the Philippine Archipelago as an unincorporated territory of the USA, even while the Filipino American War was still in progress.

William Howard Taft was appointed Head of the Mission to the Philippines and later on as the first Civil Governor that ended the Military rule.

This Public Law made all inhabitants of the Philippine Islands Filipino citizens by this proviso: "*shall be deemed and held to be citizens of the Philippine Islands and as such entitled to the protection of the United States....*" (cf Sec.4) Thereafter the policy of "Benevolent Assimilation" was declared and consequently publicized.

#### THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RULED THAT THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS IS A TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND NOT A FOREIGN COUNTRY

As trade flourished between the Philippines and the USA, the issue of tariff was raised to the Supreme Court. In 1910 the Supreme Court decided that the Philippines Islands is not a foreign country; that all Philippine goods entering the USA are therefore duty free.

*(Note: Since the Archipelago is not a foreign country but an organized territory of the U.S.A., under the "Jus soli" principle, I believe, it should also follow that all native born in the Philippine Island while it is a territory of the USA are citizens (native-born) of the United States.) I profoundly believe that the U.S. (despite PL 57-235) Congress is not constitutionally empowered to deem native-born children in territories of the USA as non-citizens of the USA. From these premise, I conclude that natives of the Archipelago (born in the Philippine) between December 10, 1898 (Treaty of Paris) and July 4th 1946 (U.S. Grand of Philippine Independence) were citizens of the United States of America during that period. [e.g.,the Filipino Veterans of WW-II (September 1, 1939 - Nazi invasion of Danzig, Poland and - September 2, 1945 - the Signing of the instrument of Japanese Surrender on board the Battleship Missouri at Tokyo Bay) who served in the Armed Forces of the United States in the Philippines.]*

#### THE USA COMMITTED TO WITHDRAW ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIM AND GUARANTEED INDEPENDENCE TO THE PHILIPPINES..

In 1916 the US passed the Jones Act. It provided for the withdrawal of the USA from the Philippines as soon as a stable government is achieve. However, no practical action followed for the next 18 years. However, on March 24, 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into lay PL 73-127, the Philippine Independence Act (also known as the Tydings-McDuffie Law: It provides a ten year commonwealth government preparatory to an independence at the end of the term (1946). PL 73-127 specifies the right of the US President to call the armed forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines into the service of the United States. [i.e., Sec.2(a)(12) *The Philippine Islands recognizes the right of the United States to expropriate property for public uses, to maintain military and other reservations and armed forces in the Philippines, and upon order of the President, to call into the service of such armed forces all military forces organized by the Philippine government.*"]



1925-1926 A general Boycott in China against all British goods. At this time, two governments existed in China – One in the North and another on the South.

The Peking government of the North is controlled largely by Chang Tso-lin, master of Manchuria and Marshal Feng Yu-Shiang, Master of Northwest China. Tso-lin retired in 1926.

The Canton Government of the South are sustained by the forces of deceased Sun Yat Sen under the command of Gen. Chiang Kai Shek.

The two governments of China wanted more from Washington than patience and watchfulness; they also wanted their mediation between the two powers existing in China.

1926. Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>. The Nanking Incident. After American Consul John K. Davis addressed a Chinese crowd, a Chinese petty officer shouted, "*You are all alike, you Americans have drink our blood for years and became rich. We are now busy killing Fengtein soldiers but we will soon be killing all foreigners in Nanking regardless of what country they are from.*" (Fengtein is another name for MUKDEN, the former capital of Manchuria.)

China sought \$40 million investment of the USA for the south railways in Manchuria.

1927. July 25<sup>th</sup>. The USA signed a treaty with the Nationalist government of China. She recognized the capability of the Chiang Kai Shek government of fulfilling its responsibilities, both domestic and international; the USA accepted Chinese tariff autonomy.

During this year, the American Protestant Missionaries in China reflected an annual expenditure: \$20 millions and a Property holdings worth \$43 Millions

1930 The great depression began to be felt nationwide in the USA.

1930-1934. The anti-Japanese educational program of China greatly disturbed Japan. Pupils were indoctrinated by the following methods:

In Composition: *Write anti-Japanese essays.* In penmanship: *Copy anti-Japanese slogans.* In drawing: *Draw pictures representing atrocities of Japanese.* Propaganda Methods: *Teachers and students organize anti-Japanese and patriotic propaganda parties in squads to deliver open air speeches. The masses were called upon to pledge themselves of plotting out national disgrace and saving their country; Japan in their lifelong enemies.*

1930 China refused to recognize and paid little heed to the Japanese pressure for the payment of \$953 million unsecured loans advanced by Japanese financiers that remained unpaid since 1918 (Nishihara Loans). Said loans were used for railways, telegraph systems, reorganization of the Bank of Communications and discharge of the military expenses of China in the first world war.

1931. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. The Mukden Incident. This is an aftermath of Nationalist China's refusal to accept the treaty signed in May 25, 1915 which treaty resulted from the 21 demands that had given Japanese interest in Manchuria a firm foundation.

Notes: 1. The blasting of the railway line purportedly done by the Chinese government was used as a convenient alibi for the aggression of Japan that lead to the occupation of Manchuria. It was discovered later that the blast was done by the Japanese troops themselves.

2. *For many scholars this incident appeared to them as the initial hostility of the Second World War (Not Sept. 1, 1939, the day Nazi Germany invaded Danzig, Poland.)*

1932. Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. Manchuria was completely conquered by Japan; a puppet government was established thereafter. Japan opened a military offensive against the Chinese Nineteenth Route Army stationed in Shanghai.

1932, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>. Secretary Stimson successfully maneuvered the League of Nations into a formal approval of the NON-RECOGNITION THEORY, a resolution which declared that it was incumbent upon the members to the League not to recognize any situation, treaty or agreement which may

be brought about by means contrary to the covenant of the League or to the Pact of Paris. This means that the action of Japan in China was in fact in a state of war with the members of the League

NEWSPAPER COMMENTARIES right after the Japanese attack in Shanghai.

Hearst Press; "The Asiatic treasure house need not agitate us or the State Department. Japan is only doing in Manchuria what the US did when it took Texas away from Mexico."

Daily Worker: "War in the Far East means a war against the toiling mass of the world! It means danger of a world war in the interest of profiteers. Hands off China!"

Evening Post: "There seems to us something wrong in the fact that a handful of doctrinaire citizens can go about framing diplomatic proposals that may set the rest of the US into war."

Evening Bulletin: "Thoughtless and dangerous movement in the long record of American history."

New Republican: "If Mr. Hoover and Sec. Stimson persist in this course and Japan does not yield, we are likely to be faced with the bad choice of fighting or suffering a thumping diplomatic defeat. (Hoover was President from 1929-1933).

1931 - May 5<sup>th</sup>. Japan agreed to withdraw from Shanghai but the Japanese made no effort to move out of Manchuria, a north eastern province of China and adjacent to the northern border of Chosen (Korea)

Japanese, encouraged by many American Presidents (namely Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921) and predecessors, moved into many parts of China when suddenly Stimson flashed a red-light of warning against further advances. The Japanese government made no real effort to head the warning. The efforts of European statesmen were just as futile as Stimson's efforts.

The USA trade data at that time: 55% of oil imported into Manchuria was handled by Standard Vacuum Oil Co. and Texas Oil Co.; Britain, Russia and the Dutch share a combined total of 35%. Japan had only 10%.

1932. Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. China and Russia restored diplomatic relations by signing a treaty. At this time Japan feared a joint Russian-Chinese pressure upon Japanese possession in North China.



1933. Mar 4<sup>th</sup>. A few months after President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945) assumed the presidency, the US Navy was approximately 65% of treaty strength while Japan increased to 95% of the treaty (1922) limits. While Sec. Stimson was engaged with his favorite past time of irritating Japan before 1933, Japan was building up her navy to full treaty strength. Prime Minister Okada surrendered to the demands of pressure groups in Japan that kept clamoring for naval parity with Britain and the USA.

1934. Russia adopted special measures to encourage migration to the maritime province of Siberia. This also created great suspicions of Japan on the purpose of Russian migrations. Japan had anticipated that Russia had a long range plan to communize China and then eventually control a large portion of Asia. The very nature of communism made it impossible to have a stable relation with Russia.

The USA recognized Communist Russia. At this time "Japan visualized some joint government actions that would dissipate suspicions and fears between the USA and Japan. This could take the form of joint declaration which would stress a desire to promote trade to the mutual advantage of the two countries and make sure the principles of equal opportunity of commerce in the Pacific region. The declaration could include a pledge binding each nation to respect territorial possessions and the right and interest of the other; and it could restate their determination that the two countries should ever maintain a relationship of peace and amity. (P. 139 Backdoor to War")

1934. So Japan had to turn to the USA with the hope of erecting a common front against the foes of capitalism. Their emphasis was placed upon the importance of adopting a policy which prevents China from relying upon her ancient stratagem of playing America against Japan.

State Secretary Cordell Hull rejected the Japanese olive-branch proffer. He did not regard the Japanese friendship a worthwhile bait. He had already rejected formal negotiations looking towards the treaty between the two nations and now refused to be drawn into an executive agreement that would announce American acceptance of Japan's special position in North China. *(Such agreement would have eliminated the tragedy of Pearl Harbor and change the course of history in the Asia Pacific Area.)*

1932 July. Rebuffed the second time, Japan now turned to Germany. Japanese naval squadron paid a good will visit to German waters, and was followed by a dispatch of Japanese army and naval experts to Germany. Trade agreement was next in the catalogue of friendship. Japanese products begin to flood the markets of British colonies (Egypt and India)

1933 . Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Japan denounce the US-Japan naval treaty of 1922. (It would have expired by December 1936)

1935. Signatories of ~~the~~ London Naval Treaty of 1930 met to settle question of naval limitations. Japan continued to insist upon naval parity with Britain and the USA, but was rejected.

1936. Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. President Roosevelt, in his address to the US Congress sounded a sharp challenge to wicked dictators who were engaged in aggression that might lead into a second world war.

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> Japan withdrew from the conference (London Naval Treaty) The collective security in the Pacific crumbled.

December. Chiang Kai-Shek was taken prisoner by Chang Hsueh-Liang at Sian. Moscow intervened and secured his release. Then he was used as a Soviet tool. Mao Tse Tung

declared, "All parties unite to fight the Japanese and traitors." Chiang Kai Shek welcomed the communists to help fight the Japanese and thus fall into the plan of Russia: That is, when the Nationalist Army gets weary and shattered by war with Japan, then the Russian and Mao armies could crack him down and all of China would be inundated with Red rule. When his usefulness is over, he would be shot as a fascist militarist.

1937 Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. The Japanese Navy blockaded Shanghai and consequently the whole coast of China.

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Pres. Roosevelt propose a quarantine against aggressive nations, obviously referring to Japan.

The U.S. Neutrality Act of 1937 was enacted into law, making it unlawful to trade with belligerents; stated the policy aimed at continental defense and designated the Navy as the first line of defense.

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The PANAY Incident. The Japanese Air Force bombed the U.S. gunboat "PANAY" along the Yangtse River at Nanking..

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. The provisional government of the Chinese Republic was proclaimed in Peiping.

1938 Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. The Japanese Foreign Office declared that its peace offensive with the USA failed and that negotiations terminated.

1938 March German troops occupied Austria and incorporated it into the REICH.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. The reformed government of the Chinese Republic was erected in Nanking when the Provisional Government in Peiping disappeared and the reorganized National Government was established at Nanking

Note: While the USA was trading with Japan, its 3<sup>rd</sup> largest trading partner, the USA was also supporting the Chiang Kai Shek government fight the Japanese military forces..

1938 Aug. In Washington D.C. Major Dwight Eisenhower, on mission sent by Douglas MacArthur to beg for military armament and equipment for the Commonwealth of the Philippines, now having a troop of 100,000, including trainees-reserves, reported to General Colin Craig, Chief of Staff, that MacArthur was convinced that a friendly Philippines, with a government able to provide delaying action in the event of an invasion, is vital to USA interests.

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. Japan landed 30,000 troops near HongKong, a British colony, and marched into Canton, established another front against Chiang Kai Shek.

General Mac Arthur retired from active military service. Britain urged the USA to institute economic offensive against Japan, but Cordell Hull, rejected the idea.

1939 March. German troops seized Czechoslovakia by force.

April 20<sup>th</sup> Moscow sent proposal to London and Paris for an agreement to go all together into war in case one of them is attacked.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. Avowing to change a previous policy, Berlin sent a note to Moscow their decision to undertake a new negotiation with Russia.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. Sec. Cordell Hull sent a diplomatic note to the Japanese Ambassador that the 1911 treaty with Japan would terminate January 26<sup>th</sup> 1940.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>. Germany invaded Danzig, Poland; the European crisis turned into war.**

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Japanese soldiers invaded Indochina, a French Colony.

**1940. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. The Axis Military Alliance was signed by Germany, Italy and Japan)**

November. As international relations get more complex and as political and economic interests assessed, Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, proposed to undertake a mission to Washington in order to impress upon Roosevelt the fact that the Japanese government wishes to negotiate a peace agreement that will include:

- 1 . An agreement to nullify their participation in the Axis Pact.
- 2 A guarantee to recall all military forces from China and restore to China its geographical and political integrity.
- 3 Other conditions bearing upon the relations of Japan with the USA were to be explored and agreed upon in the conversation that was hoped would ensue.

November. Presidential Election in the USA. President F. D. Roosevelt was re-elected for his exceptionally third term. (*He was first elected in 1932; his second in 1936.*)

1941 March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ribbentrop, the Foreign Minister of Nazi Germany (1938-1945) renewed his pressure upon Oshima of Japan in favor of an early entry of Japan into the war.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. Matsuoka arrive in Berlin. Ribbentrop argued it would be very advantageous if Japan would decide as soon as possible to take an active part in the war upon England. Japan's intervention would likely keep the USA out of the war.

Matsuoka inquired about the attitude of Germany towards America after Britain was defeated. Ribbentrop quickly answered that Germany did not have the slightest interest in a war against the USA. He left the conference with the expression of a wish that American might be converted to "*our way of thinking.*"

April 13<sup>th</sup>. Matsuoka moved from Berlin to Moscow where he signed with Molotov a Neutrality Pact.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Germany invaded Russia.

**In the meantime, Russia was supporting Mao Tse Tung while the USA was supporting Chiang Kai-Shek; Japan was penetrating China in two fronts. The USA was certainly glad Russia did not make alliance with Germany.**

June 25 President . Roosevelt froze all assets and credits of Japan in the USA; Churchill did the same. US export of grain, steel and oil to Japan stopped. The Panama canal was closed to Japanese shipping. *Consequently, the Japanese warlords reacted with a secret time table: unless the allies lift the embargo on oil and other supplies and to halt reinforcements to the Philippines, they will attack in four months. They have to provide their ever growing industrial and military needs from Far East resources.*

July 14<sup>th</sup>. A very important message was decoded – from Tokyo to Nomura in Washington: "THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF OUR INVASION OF INDOCHINA WILL BE TO ACHIEVE OUR PURPOSE THERE.... WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IS FAVORABLE, TO LAUNCH THEREFROM A RAPID ATTACK... WILL ONCE AND FOR ALL CRUSH ANGLO-AMERICAN MILITARY POWER AND ABILITY TO ASSIST IN ANY SCHEME AGAINST US."

July 24<sup>th</sup>. Pres. Roosevelt sent a message to Nomura: "IF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD REFRAIN FROM OCCUPYING WITH ITS MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES OR HAD STEPS BEEN COMMENCED, IF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD WITHDRAW SUCH FORCES, THE PRESIDENT COULD ASSURE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THAT HE WOULD DO WITHIN HIS POWERS TO OBTAIN THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS AND OF COURSE THE USA ITSELF A BINDING AND SOLEMN DECLARATION TO REGARD INDOCHINA AS A NEUTRALIZED COUNTRY."

July 25<sup>th</sup>. Japan announced that it had assumed protectorate over French Indo-China.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. Pres. Roosevelt federated the Army of the Commonwealth of the Philippines into the Armed Forces of the United States

The War Department through the Army Chief of Staff constituted a Command, the United States Army Forces in the Far East, recalled to service and designated Major General. Douglas MacArthur as Commander, and placed the Philippine Commonwealth Army under his command.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. The KONOYE CABINET resigned for its failure to achieve an agreement for peace and amity with the US government. The Prime Minister started as early as November 1940 to arrange a meeting with President Roosevelt. He failed and so the pacifist in Japan also failed with his resignation.

BEFORE PEARL HARBOR: THE CIRCUMSTANCES, POLITICAL MANEUVERS AND DIPLOMATIC SCHEMES.

1941 November 10<sup>th</sup>. Gen. Hideki Tojo took over as Prime Minister.

Ambassador (Admiral) Nomura presented to Pres. Roosevelt further explanation of his government's proposal for peace and amity.

Meanwhile, a secret message from Tokyo to Nomura was decoded instructing him that November 25<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the U.S. government to reply.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Sec Cordell Hull, realizing the decoded deadline, gave a very long oral statement to Nomura setting forth the U.S. conditions as the bases for agreement, in this tone. "...complete control over China's economic, financial and monetary affairs should be restored and Japan should abandon any thought of preserving in China or anywhere else in the Pacific Area a preferential position..."

November 17<sup>th</sup>. Saburu Kuruso was sent to Washington to Assist Ambassador Nomura.

November 20<sup>th</sup>. Kuruso discussed with Sec. Hull the matter of bringing to a close the hostilities between China and Japan. This could be done if the U.S. stopped sending supplies to China.

President Roosevelt reacted by outlining a proposal that might be accepted: *the U.S. to introduce Japan to China and talk things over but the U.S. to take no part in the conversation, with the view that a Pacific Agreement may ensue thereafter.* Meanwhile, the new decoding machine of the U.S. Military Commission Corps again decoded a message from the Tokyo Foreign Affairs Office addressed to Ambassador Nomura, extending the deadline from Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup>.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nomura and Kuruso met with Hull once more in conference. Japan proposed the following:

1. A revocation of the American Order of July 26<sup>th</sup> that froze Japanese assets and credits in the USA, which in effect stopped the shipment of oil from the American ports.
2. America consent to a program aimed at increasing the export of oil and other commodities from the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) to Japan.
3. American mediation between China and Japan so as to initiate negotiations between the two powers and the cessation of American assistance to Chiang Kai Shek.

November 24. Sec. Cordell Hull had a conference with diplomatic representatives of Australia, Great Britain, China and the Netherlands. He quickly discovered that Chinese Ambassador Dr. Hu Shin was not enthusiastic about the three months truce with Japan – as contemplated in the conference.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. In the morning, Sec. Hull showed Sec. Knox and Stimson the draft providing for a three-months truce, but the terms were so drastic; they believed it will not be acceptable to Japan. In the afternoon, Hull, Knox, Stimson, Marshall and Admiral Stark went to the President for a long conference at the White House. Knowing about the deadline intercepted, the President expressed fear with this comment: *“The Japanese might make an attack as early as next Monday. The main question is – how should we maneuver them into position of firing the first shot without allowing too much danger to ourselves?”* (p. 48 BACKDOOR TO WAR).

As soon as Sec. Hull returned to office, he had a long talk with Ambassador Hu Shin, who handed him a telegram from Chiang Kai Shek, which reads:

“AFTER READING YOUR (Hu Shin’s) TELEGRAM THE GENERALISMO SHOWED RATHER STRONG REACTION. HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS PUT ASIDE THE CHINESE QUESTION IN ITS CONVERSATION WITH JAPAN INSTEAD OF SEEKING SOLUTION AND STILL IS INCLINED TO APPEASE JAPAN AT THE EXPENSE OF CHINA.”

November 26<sup>th</sup>. In the afternoon Sec. Hull abandoned all thoughts of truce with Japan but put into final draft a ten-point proposal. Both Hull and the President knew Japan would reject it. There was no thought of compromise nor conciliation. The draft central theme was: **“THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WILL WITHDRAW ALL MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR AND POLICE FORCES FROM CHINA AND FROM INDOCHINA.”**

December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Navy radio receiving station in Cheltenham, Maryland intercepted a Japanese news broadcast from station in Tokyo, in which there was inserted a false weather report – **“EAST WIND RAIN.”** [Note: On Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, the Japanese government had instructed secretly its ambassador in Washington that such a weather report would indicate *“Imminence of war with the USA.”* So the radio receiving stations of the Armed Forces of the USA were on the alert for **“EAST WIND RAIN”** message. As soon as the false weather report was translated, Lt. Com. Kramer handed the transcription to Commodore Safford with the exclamation, *“This is it!”*

Commodore Safford got in touch immediately with Rear Adm. Noyes, who telephoned the substance of the intercepted message to the Naval Aid of the President.

**WAR WAS IMMINENT. THE CONFLICTS COULD NO LONGER BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS.** Contentions among the three powers - the USA, Japan and China - could only be decided by war.

December 7<sup>th</sup> (USA time) December 8<sup>th</sup> (Asia Time) **THE PEARL HARBOR INCIDENT.** The following day, **the United States declared war against Japan, Germany and Italy..**

### STATUS OF USA MILITARY STRENGTH

In 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, Gen. George Marshall, newly esignated Chief of Staff (Vice Gen. Colin Craig) reported that the US Army and Air Corps were fewer than 200,000 troops, far below the authorized 280,000 authorized by Congress. The USA ranked 17th among the world's armed forces.

1941, when the USA declared war against the Axis Powers, their military strength was 1,017,000 composed of: the Army and Air Corps: 755,000; the Navy: 118,000 ; the Marines: 144,000.

The year by year total rose from 1941 to the following figures: 1942 - 2,498,000; 1943 - 6,662,000; 1944 - 10,290,000; 1945 - 11,809,000.

Then this was reduce after the war was over - 1950 - 1,539,000; 1986 - 2,169,000

PART II  
A MONTAGE OF EVENTS IN THE PACIFIC WAR  
RELEVANT TO THE HISTORY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
AND  
THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN RELATION\*



## PREFACE

The first part of this treatise presents a picture of the conflicting interest and situations in Asia Pacific region before the Pacific war which I consider relevant somehow to the comprehension of subsequent events involving (1) the invasion of the Philippines by the Japanese Imperial Forces and the defense of the Archipelago by the Armed Forces of the United States in the Far East; (2) The Guerrilla Resistance against the Japanese Occupation; and (3) the retrieval of the Philippine Archipelago, a colony (organized territory) of the U.S. which was lost to the enemy by means of war.

In this second part, I endeavored to picture the role played by the Filipino people and the Filipino servicemen in the ferocious war between the USA and Japan.

## STAGES OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Looking back at the events of the Pacific War, three stages could be reflected from the American side.

I have noted that the first and third stages hereunder described are not complete without the a substantial involvement of the Philippines and the Filipino People.

### THE FIRST STAGE: From December 7, 1941 to May 10, 1942).

After the Pearl Harbor incidence, December 7th (USA time) the U.S.A. declared war against Germany, Italy and Japan. Japan continued her military adventures towards the colonies of Western Powers in the Far East, notably French Indo China, Dutch East Indies, Malaya, New Guinea and of course the Philippines,

### THE DEFENSE AND FALL OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS TO JAPANESE CONTROL From December 8, 1941 to May 9, 1942

*[This segment is an excerpt from a pamphlet entitled  
"PHILIPPINE ISLAND" (U.S. Army Campaigns of WW-II)  
CMH Pub-3, U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Document, Mails Stop: SSOP, Washington, D.C. 20402-9328]*

By December 1, 1941, a majority of the ten Philippine Army (PA) reserve divisions mobilized by MacArthur in September had been incorporated into the U.S. defense forces. Together with the U.S. Army, Philippine Department, the regular units ( 31,095 men) maintained by the USA in the islands which includes the Philippine Scout (12,000 men) , MacArthur reorganized his growing command into four separate forces.

The North Luzon Force, commanded by Maj. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright composed of one regiment of the Philippine Scouts (PS), the 26th Cavalry; one batallion of the 45th Infantry (PS) and two batteries of 144 mm. Guns and one 2.95-inch mountain gun. From the Philippine Army (PA) Wainwright had the 11th, 21st and 31st Infantry Divisions. The 71st Infantry Division (PA) served as its reserve unit which could be committed only by authority of MacArthur.

The South Luzon Force, commanded by Brig. Gen. George M. Parker, Jr., had the 41st and 51st Infantry Divisions (PA) and two batteries from the 86th Field Artillery (PS)

The Visayan-Mindanao Force under Brig. Gen. William F. Sharp was composed of the 61st, 81st and 101st Infantry Divisions (PA)

The Reserve Force, composed of the Far East Air Force, the U.S. Army's Philippine Division, and the headquarters units of the Philippine Department and the Philippine Army, was stationed just north of Manila under MacArthur's direct command. The Philippine Division's 10,233 officers and enlisted men made it the largest single concentration of regulars. Major Gen. George F. Moore's Harbor Defense forces, which included four artillery regiments, guarded the entrance to Manila Bay (Corregidor)

#### The Japanese Invasion Plan of the Philippines Islands

The Imperial General Headquarters assigned Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, commander of the 14th Army, the task of conquering the Philippines. In addition to the 16th and 48th Divisions, Homma's army contained 2 tank battalions, 2 regiments and 1 battalion of medium artillery, 3 engineer regiments, 5 antiaircraft battalions, and a large number of service units. The 500 aircraft of the 5th Air Group, commanded by Lt. Gen. Hideyshi Obata, would support the invasion from Formosa. The Japanese naval forces included the 3rd Fleet, commanded by Vice Adm. Ibo Takahashi, and the 11th Air Fleet, commanded by Vice Adm. Nishizo Tsukahara.

The commanders finalized their plans of attack in mid-November (1941). On the first day, army and navy aircraft would establish air superiority by destroying American aircraft and air installations. As these attacks proceeded, the army and navy would establish advance air bases in Batan Island north of Luzon, at Aparri, Vigan and Legaspi on Luzon Island, and at Davao on Mindanao. Major elements of the 14th Army would then land along the Lingayen Gulf north of Manila, while smaller forces would launch an assault in Lamongan Bay to the south. These forces would converge on Manila, where the Japanese expected the decisive battle to take place. Imperial Headquarters assume that the fall of the capital would mean the destruction of the vast majority of U.S. and Philippine forces. Gaining control of the smaller islands would wait until they were needed. It gave Gen. Homma an exact timetable: conquer Luzon in fifty days. After that, half of his forces would be removed for operations scheduled elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

#### An Overview of the Defense

The duty officer of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet headquarters in Manila first received word of the Pearl Harbor attack at 02:30 on 8 December, but a full hour passed before Brig. Gen. Richard K. Sutherland, MacArthur's chief of staff, heard the news from commercial broadcast. He immediately notified MacArthur and all commanders that a state of war now existed with Japan. MacArthur ordered his troops to battle stations.

Despite this warning, when the Japanese pilots of the 11th Air Fleet attacked Clark Field nine hours later, they caught two squadrons of B-17s lined up on the field and a number of American fighters just preparing to take off.

The first wave of twenty-seven Japanese twin-engine bombers achieved complete tactical surprise and destroyed most of the American heavy bombers. Only three P-40s managed to take off. A simultaneous attack on the Iba's Field in northwest Luzon was also successful: all but two of the 3rd Squadron's P-40s were destroyed. The Far East Air Force, under Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, lost fully half its planes the first day of the war.

With the air superiority ensured, Japanese forces landed as planned.

MacArthur realized that the USAFFE defense plan had failed. On 26 December, he notified his commanders that Plan Orange is now in effect, thereby reactivating the old prewar plan to defend only

Bataan and Corregidor indefinitely. Under Wainwright and Parker the American and Philippine withdrawal to Bataan proceeded quickly and in remarkably good order given the chaotic situation. On the night of 24-25 December, MacArthur had moved his USAFFE headquarters and the Philippine government to Corregidor. The hasty withdrawal forced the retreating units to leave most of their supplies and equipment behind. To supply MacArthur's original plan of defense of the entire island chain, supplies had been dispersed from their original depots in Bataan and Corregidor to support the units of the North and South Luzon Forces. The resulting lack of food, ammunition, weapons, and medical supplies would prove critical factors in the subsequent operations.

The plan for Bataan for two defensive lines. The first extended across the peninsula from Mauban in the west to Mabatang in the east. Wainwright's I Philippine Corps held the eastern sector. His command included the 1st, 31st and 91st Infantry Divisions (PA); the 26th Cavalry (PS); and a battery of field artillery and self-propelled 75-mm guns. General Parker commanded the western sector. His II Philippine Corps, included the 11th, 21st, 41st, and 51st Divisions (PA) and the 57th Infantry (PS), numbered 25,000 men. MacArthur designated the Philippine Division as the reserve force.

Japanese Imperial Headquarters intervened at this point, unwittingly giving the defenders a brief respite. At the beginning of January, Tokyo reassigned the experienced 48th Division, Homma's best troops, to the Dutch East Indies; it was to be replaced by the recalled reservist of the 65th Brigade. The substitution came just as the Americans and Filipinos were digging in and preparing to take their stand.

Plan Orange assumed 80,000 troops and 26,000 civilians in Bataan would resist for at least six months.

The first line of defense gave way to the Japanese I Corp. Forced to evacuate their outflanked position. on 22 January the defenders completed their withdrawal to the second line of defense that ran from Bagac on the western shore to just south of Orion on the eastern shore.

The enemy renewed the offensive against the 4,500 yard Orion Bagac line on 26-27 January.

On February 8th, Gen. Homma ordered a general withdrawal from the 14th Army forward position. Since 6 January the Japanese had suffered 7,000 battle casualties with another 10,000 to 12,000 men dying of disease. The unexpected tenacity of the American opposition forced him to call on Imperial Headquarters for reinforcement.

On the other side, the failure of the seemingly invincible Japanese break through the defenses lifted American and Filipino morale. Men in the ranks were anxious to pursue the wounded enemy, but MacArthur and his commander would not permit such a counterattack. A temporary reversal of Japanese fortunes could not alter the dismal strategic situation. U.S. forces were isolated and could expect no relief in the form of men or supplies, while the enemy could be reinforced at will. Any attempt to take the offensive would only consume scarce resources and exhaust the soldiers already weakened by the long period of reduced rations.

In March, the Japanese receive individual replacements to fill out the 16th Division and the 65th Brigade in addition to units of the 4th Division which just arrived from China.

The steady deterioration of the American position forced President Roosevelt to order MacArthur to move to Australia. On 12 March the commander and his USAFFE staff departed Corregidor by submarine, leaving Wainwright in command. MacArthur left behind orders that Wainwright's men were *"to fight as long as there remains any possible resistance."*

The expected Japanese renewed attack begun 3 April after a sustained aerial and artillery bombardment. The exhausted, malnourished and dispirited defender soon gave ground, and the entire line began to crumble. In thirty-six hours the Japanese succeeded in breaching the American line. Command and control in II Corps quickly broke down as troops retreated under heavy air attack. The destruction of the II Corps left I Corps outflanked and it too retreated. There was, however, little space left to retreat. General King, the I Corps commander, soon concluded that the continued resistance would endanger the hospital

and service areas without any tactical gain, and on 8 April he resolved to surrender. King deliberately did not inform Wainwright, whose orders prohibited surrender. On his decision, King met with Maj.Gen.. Kameichiro Nagano on 9 April to arrange terms for the whole Luzon force. King was unable to negotiate terms for all of the forces on Bataan, however, the defending units surrendered unconditionally to individual Japanese units. With Bataan completely in their hands the Japanese turned their attention to Corregidor.

The fall of Bataan gave the Japanese an excellent location from which to shell Corregidor and a staging area for their assault on the island. It left them with thousands of prisoners to move out of the area to clear the way for future operations. The weakened defenders were forced to march sixty-five miles north through the peninsula to Camp O'Donnell, a former Philippine Army camp. About 600 American and between 5,000 to 10,000 Filipinos died on what has become known as the "*Bataan Death March*."

The Japanese began their final assault on Corregidor with a heavy artillery barrage on 1 May. On the night of 5-6 May, two battalions of the 61st Infantry landed on the northeast end of the island. Despite a strong resistance they established a beachhead that was soon reinforced by tanks and artillery. Artillery men and other miscellaneous Army and Navy personnel fighting as infantry joined the 4th Marine Regiment to meet the invasion. The defenders were quickly pushed back toward the island's Malinta Hill stronghold where their position became untenable. President Roosevelt had personally authorize General Wainwright to decide if or when surrender was proper. Late on 6 May, Wainwright broadcast a message to Gen. Homma asking for terms.

Wainwright tried to limit the surrender to his forces on Corregidor, but Homma insisted that surrender include all U.S. forces in the islands. Convinced that the lives of the 11,000 men left on Corregidor would be unusually endangered, Wainwright finally capitulated. On 8 May he sent a message to Gen. Sharp, commander of the Visayan-Mindanao Force, ordering him to surrender. Sharp complied and in turn ordered his scattered forces, then preparing to fight as guerrillas, to surrender. Some units refused at first to comply, but one by one they followed orders. Many individuals, however, escaped to carry on the fight as guerrilla. By 9 June, almost all commands had surrendered.

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#### The Course of Japanese Invasion from December 1941 to February 1942.

1. From Hainan, South China.	Dec. 8	Kota Bharu, and Prachuab, Malaya
	Jan. 1	Brunei, Borneo;
	Jan. 19	Sandakan, Borneo;
2. From Formosa	Dec. 8	Batan Islands, Northern Islands, Phil.
(XIV Army, Gen. M. Homma)	Dec. 10	Vigan, North Luzon
	Dec. 10	Aparri, North Luzon
	Dec. 10	Lingayen Gulf, NW Luzon
3. From Palau	Dec. 12	Legaspi City, SE Luzon
(Caroline Islands)	Dec. 20	Davao City, S. Mindanao
4. From Ryukyu Islands	Dec. 24	Atimoman, East Luzon
(Okinawa)		Lamon Bay, East Luzon
		(Opposite the Cavite Naval Yard)
		(Note: French Indochina, occupied as early as Sep. 1939 became the headquarters of the Japanese Western Forces.)
5. From Camrahn Bay	Dec. 16	Mira, West Borneo
(French Indochina)	Dec. 16	Sarawak, W. Borneo
	Dec. 24	Kuching, W. Borneo
	Dec. 27	Pemanmkat, W. Borneo

(Note: On Dec. 26th MacArthur ordered the implementation of ORANGE PLAN: RETRENCH AT BATAAN PENINSULA. Unfortunately, the Naval Fleet under Admiral Hart withdrew from Philippine waters as early as December 25th 1941 - a naval action Gen. MacArthur never forgot. )

From Palembang	Feb. 15	Singapore
	Mar. 1	Eretan Weta, Java
	Mar. 1	Merak, Java
7. From Davao	Jan. 11	Tarakan, East Borneo
	Jan. 11	Medano, N. Celebes
	Jan. 24	Kendari, S.E. Celebes
	Feb. 9	Makassar, SW Celebes
	Feb. 10	Surabaya, E. Java
	Feb. 19	Bali, Eastern tip of Java
	Feb. 20	Kupang, Timor
	Feb. 20	Dili, Timor

1942 - February 8. MacArthur and Quezon growing despondent over Americas inaction and timidity contemplated a separate peace with Japan with intent to preserve the Philippines and Filipino people from further destruction. Instead, President Quezon decided and appealed by radio to President Roosevelt to grant immediate independence as a first step towards declaring a state of neutrality of the Philippines.

President Roosevelt sent this instruction to Gen. MacArthur:

*"American forces will continue to keep our flag flying in the Philippines so long as there remains any possible resistance.*

*I have made this decision in complete understanding of your military estimate that accompanied President Quezon's message to me. The duty and necessity of resisting Japanese aggression to the last transcends in importance any other obligation now facing us in the Philippines."*

*"... There has been gradually welded into a common front a globe encircling opposition to the predatory powers that are seeking the destruction of individual liberty and freedom of government. We cannot afford this line broken in any particular theater. As the most powerful member of this coalition, we cannot display weakness in fact or in spirit anywhere.*

*"I therefore give you the most difficult mission in full understanding of the desperate situation to which you may shortly be reduced.*

*"I authorize you to arrange for the capitulation of the Filipino elements of the defense forces when and if in your opinion that course appears necessary and always having in mind that the Filipino troops are in the service of the United States."*<sup>1</sup>

General MacArthur replied: *"My plans have already been outlined in previous radios: they consist of fighting (only) present battle position in Bataan to destruction and then holding Corregidor in a similar manner. I have ~~not the slightest intention~~ in the world of surrendering or capitulating the Filipino elements of my command... there has never been the slightest wavering among the troops. I count ~~on them equally with~~ the Americans to hold steadfast to the end."*<sup>2</sup>

February 23. Upon the advice of Churchill ~~the day before~~, President Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to proceed to Australia.

March 11, Washington time. By mutual agreement, the United States assumed responsibility over the Pacific Area while Great Britain assumed ~~responsibility over~~ the Indian Ocean and Middle east area.

March 12, Manila time. MacArthur left Corregidor on a ~~PT~~ Boat to Mindanao where he boarded a

B-17 and arrived in Darwin on March 17th.

[Note: He did not enjoin the Filipino troops to capitulate when he left Corregidor for Australia. Rather, he provided the troops with hope of reprieve; he encouraged them to intensify their fight against the enemy by promising them "I SHALL RETURN.")

[Take note of the following : Within a three months period, Japan had claimed a 20 million square miles of dominion in the Asia Pacific Area. It humbled all military might of the European colonizers in the region. ( Australia and India were not included in their control.) It is doubtful if this size of their geographic and demographic dominion will ever be duplicated again.]

By March 1942, Japan had curved a very wide empire. She had control over Manchuria, Southern China, the Netherlands Indies (Indonesia), French Indochina, Malaysia, British New Guinea, Burma, . The Caroline Islands and other group of Pacific Islands.

Only the Philippine Archipelago, within the center of that large circumference, offered resistance against the onslaught of Japanese Forces which lasted up to May 6th 1942.

The beleaguered USAFFE troops of Gen. MacArthur , composed of 31,095 Regular American Troops (this included 12,000 Philippine Scouts), and at least 118,000 Philippine Troops defended the entire Archipelago against the better armed Japanese Imperial Forces.

The ignominious defeat of the USAFFE marked the first experience of the United States in surrendering a territory to a foreign power in a major war. *Ever since this lesson in the Philippines, the USA never got caught again unprepared for war.*

On the Japanese side, Bataan and Corregidor will remain a black-mark on the Japanese war annals: *too long to subdue in so tiny a battlefield and with very heavy casualties.*

#### THE SECOND STAGE. AIR AND NAVAL SKIRMISH IN THE PACIFIC SEAS (May & June 1942).

The Japanese strategic thrust into the South Pacific and Central Pacific were blunted by CARRIER BATTLES: (1) At the battle of the Coral Sea at the South Pacific (May); and (2) At the battle of the Central Pacific (June).

These air and naval battles represented the end of defeat of the American Forces and the first step towards victory. These were the great leaps into the final stage of the Pacific war.

#### THE THIRD STAGE. From July , 1942 to August 15, 1945.

At the Pentagon, two major offensives were developed and consequently carried out.

1. The Forces of Gen. MacArthur, the Southwest Pacific Area Command, advanced from Australia, across the North ~~Eastern~~ Coast of New Guinea towards the Philippines.
2. The Forces of Adm. Chester Nimitz, at the Central Pacific Area, From Hawaii it island -hopped through Gilbert Islands to Okinawa.

#### The Filipino Resistance Against the Occupation Forces

The test of loyalty of the Filipino people to the American Flag was first demonstrated in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, General MacArthur attested to this during the bleak days of the defense against the invader.

Prisoners of War were incarcerated at several camps in the Philippines. These are located in (1) Camp O'Donnel in Tarlac; (2) Bilibid Prison in Manila; (3) at Malaybalay, Bukidnon (Mindanao); at Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija and at Los Banos, Laguna. U.S. Civilians were incarcerated principally at the campus of University of Sto. Tomas, in Manila.

Despite the overwhelming odds, the Filipino people and American prisoners, specially the Filipino soldiers of the USAFFE, including the prison escapees, took the words of MacArthur "I SHALL RETURN" as the voice of America speaking to the Filipino people. These words kept on ringing in their ears for the duration of the occupation, such that before the landing of American troops in Leyte (October 20, 1944) about 400,000 able bodied Filipinos all over the Philippine archipelago, voluntarily participated in the guerrilla resistance, risking the lives of their families and themselves

The guerrilla movement started from a few Officers and enlisted men who never surrenders to the enemy, or who escaped the Death March, or who were released from the concentration camps.

The guerrilla organization grew from scratch as early as May 1942 (e.g. 14th Infantry Regiment of Col. Nakar). I recall that at the early part of the occupation, the Japanese soldiers were rather friendly. They tried to carry out their pacification campaign policy tagged "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere." So the guerrilla resistance began sporadically and of course very secretive. However, the resistance rapidly increased after October 1943 when the Japanese Government granted independence to the Philippines. They vehemently rebuked the Filipino officials whom they adjudged of having abused their authority and collaborated with the Japanese. In order to assert their presence and deter others from collaborating with the enemy, the guerrillas carried out missions for capturing or assassinating the collaborators.

Upon the establishment of radio communication with the headquarters of Gen. MacArthur, guerrilla units began to receive military hardware and supplies. Thereafter, the guerrilla missions included harassment of Japanese garrisons, ambushing military convoys or destroying bridges and communication lines all over the archipelago.

These further infuriated the Japanese Occupation Forces. Consequently, all members and service volunteers of guerrilla units, including suspected sympathizers, supporters or their families, were arrested, usually with the help of collaborators. They were summarily tortured and meted death sentences by decapitation.

There were several outstanding guerrilla units, who established radio communication with the Headquarters of Gen. MacArthur, and who were supplied with military hardware and supplies by submarines before the Leyte Landing (Oct. 20, 1944). Just to name a representative few, among them were Fertig of Mindanao, Peralta of Western Visayas, Kangleon of Eastern Visayas, Ramsey of Central Luzon, and Volkmann of North Luzon.

### The question: Formosa or the Philippines

As the war developed in Europe and in the Pacific, the Army and the Navy leaders in the Pacific front had their own quarrels too - centered on their competition for command, territories and resources. Inter-service rivalries and great distances prevented a single unified commander until Gen. MacArthur became the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers (SCAP) in the later days of the Pacific war.

In the Pacific, the navy had an upper hand over the Army by tradition. Since the time of Commodore Perry, and by an act of congress later (Neutrality Act of 1937), the first line of United States defense had always been the



Navy. Somehow, in Europe, the supreme command was aptly given to Army Commanding Generals on account of the large tracts of land battles, the scope of which truly belongs to the Army. For the Pacific area, the Naval Leaders were certain of this being a naval arena.

Compare to Europe where there was a unified command under an army man (Gen. Dwight Eisenhower), the Pacific front, on account of intense rivalries, President Roosevelt preferred to direct the Pacific war under the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff in Pentagon. Two service personages were prominent, Army General Marshall and Navy Admiral King.

The myth of the prominence of the Naval Command in the Pacific over that of the Army was dispelled. Somehow, in June 1944, after the capture of Japanese territories in Saipan, Tinian and the retrieval of Guam in the Marianas Group of Islands where about 127, 000 troops had to be engaged to subvert the enemy's hold over these very tiny islands. In spite of this, the intra-service arguments continued.

Admiral Ernest King of the Joint Chiefs of staff and supported by key naval leaders, including Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Central Pacific Area, was committed to the idea of by-passing the Philippines and move straight to Formosa, then link with the Chinese Forces and drive off the Japanese from China back to Japan. This came straight up against Gen. MacArthur's commitment made so dramatically after he left his troops under siege of the enemy Corregidor and Bataan (March 11, 1942) with these words, "I shall return." Now that Guam was retrieve, his chance of returning had come.

This issue was truly a great one. The Joint Chiefs-of-Staff could not make up their minds, so they elevated this problem to their Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt, for him to decide - FORMOSA OR THE PHILIPPINES.

To settle this issue, President Roosevelt journeyed to Pearl Harbor and conferred with his two theater Commanders, Adm. Nimitz and Gen. MacArthur. In that conference, although Adm. King was with the Presidential entourage, he was politely advised that his presence in the conference was not desired any more than that of Gen. Marshall would have been. Adm. Nimitz argued for the Adm. King's proposal (Formosa). Nevertheless, MacArthur's proposal was adopted by the President.

Among the vital factors that tilted President Roosevelt's choice in favor of the Philippines was his own personal commitment to President Quezon. On February 8th, 1942, in reply to Quezon's plea for immediate independence as a step towards neutrality whereby he assured Quezon and his cabinet of America's driving out the invaders. Besides, he is certain of the loyalty of the Filipinos to America despite of (1) occupation propaganda, (2) independence granted them on October 1943, and (3) the declaration of war of the puppet government against the U.S.A..

Objective wise, MacArthur argued that if the United States would deliberately by-pass the Philippines leaving the American prisoners, nationals and loyal Filipinos in enemy hands without any effort to retrieve them at the earliest possible time, the United States would incur the gravest psychological reactions; the United States would admit the truth that she had abandoned the Filipinos and would not shed American blood to redeem them. The United States would undoubtedly incur open hostilities of the Filipino people. The United States would probably lose prestige among all peoples of the the Far East and therefore would adversely affect the United States many years. He also warned the President of extremely adverse reaction at home if he did not liberate the Philippines at the earliest possible time..

MacArthur also described the Philippines (Luzon Island) as the ideal forward base for future operations against Japan; control of the Philippines would allow the United States to sever Tokyo's economic life line to Southeast Asia. It would finally avenge the unsupported troops who were destroyed by the enemy in 1942.

Note the following events that ensued from this decision:

1. The greatest naval battle ever fought occurred in the Philippine Sea, at the Gulf of Leyte (Another one occurred at Midway at the Central Pacific. In these battles the Japanese navy was finally debilitated
2. After the naval battle in the Philippine Sea, General Hideki Tojo, Prime Minister since 1941 and his Cabinet resigned. He was replaced by General Kuniaki Koiso and a new cabinet was formed. They desired to form an inner last ditch defense line running from the islands of Iwo Jima (Bonin Islands) Okinawa (Ryukyu Islands) and Formosa to Shanghai (Mainland China).

The battles that ensued in Luzon Island, after the landing in Leyte (Oct. 20, 1944) and in Lingayen (Jan. 9, 1945) and those that landed in Okinawa became the two major campaigns in the Pacific War that has some of the characteristics of the war in Europe; they were long fights on tough land mass with entire armies sustained in combat over a course of several months..

#### — THE MAJOR BATTLES IN THE PHILIPPINE ARENA

Among the major battles between the Japanese Imperial Forces and the Armed Forces of the United States in the Philippine Arena after Bataan and Corregidor, were:

The naval battle at the Gulf of Leyte, now known to be the greatest naval battle ever fought in history..

The Landing at the Island of Leyte and Japanese all out Military Defense of the Island.

The Landing at Lingayen Gulf (January 9, 1945)

The Battle of Manila (March), and

The Retreat of General Yamashita and Siege on his remaining ground forces in North Luzon, until his surrender on September 2, 1945)

THE PRINCIPAL ORDERS INCORPORATING THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY INTO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASING THEM BACK TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

The TEXT OF THE ORDER OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT dated July 26, 1941.

"UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, BY SECTION 2(a)(12) OF THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE ACT OF MARCH 24, 1934 (45 STAT. 475), AND BY THE CORRESPONDING PROVISION OF THE ORDINANCE APPENDED TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES, I HEREBY CALL AND ORDER INTO THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PERIOD OF THE EXISTING EMERGENCY, AND PLACE UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL OFFICERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR FROM TIME TO TIME. ALL OF THE ORGANIZED MILITARY FORCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES: PROVIDED, THAT ALL NAVAL COMPONENTS THEREFOR SHALL BE PLACED UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE SIXTH NAVAL DISTRICT, UNITED STATES NAVY.

"THIS ORDER WILL TAKE EFFECT WITH RELATION TO ALL UNITS AND PERSONNEL OF ORGANIZED FORCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM AND AFTER THE DAYS AND HOURS RESPECTIVELY INDICATED IN ORDERS TO BE ISSUED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE GENERAL OFFICERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR."

The TEXT OF THE RADIOGRAM OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT THROUGH GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, CHIEF OF STAFF, TO GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, MANILA, P.I. dated July 26, 1941.

"EFFECTIVE THIS DATE, THERE IS HEREBY CONSTITUTED A COMMAND DESIGNATED AS THE UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST. THIS COMMAND SHALL INCLUDE THE PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT, FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES CALLED INTO THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PERIOD OF EXISTING EMERGENCY, AND SUCH OTHER FORCES AS MAY BE DESIGNATED TO IT. HEADQUARTERS OF THIS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAREAST WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. YOU ARE HEREBY

DESIGNATED AS COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST."

The TEXT OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 1, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST, OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL, MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS DATED JULY 27, 1941.

July 27, 1941.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT, EFFECTIVE JULY 26, 1941, CONSTITUTED A COMMAND AS THE UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST.

THIS COMMAND INCLUDES THE PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT, FORCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES CALLED AND ORDERED INTO THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PERIOD OF THE EXISTING EMERGENCY, AND SUCH OTHER FORCES AS MAY BE ASSIGNED TO IT. HEADQUARTERS IS ESTABLISHED IN MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ASSUMES COMMAND.

(sgd) DOUGLAS MACARTHUR  
Commanding General

The TEXT OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 46, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST MANILA, P.I. DATED DECEMBER 18, 1941.

December 1, 1941

GENERAL ORDER  
No. 46

1. PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DATED JULY 26, 1941, ALL THE PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY ON ACTIVE DUTY ALL ACTIVE UNITS ALREADY ACCEPTED FOR SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PHILIPPINES, EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR THE PERIOD OF TH4E EXISTING EMERGENCY, AND WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR SUCH SERVICES BY OFFICERS IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES..
2. PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WHICH MAY HEREAFTER BE CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY AND UNITS THEREOF WHICH MAY HEREAFTER BE ACTIVATED ARE HEREBY CALLED INTO THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MACARTHUR:

(SGD) R.K. SUTHERLAND  
 Brigadier General, GSC  
 Chief of Staff

The MILITARY ORDER OF PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN DATED JUNE 29, 1946.

"UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, BY SECTION 2 (A)(12) OF THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE ACT FO MARCH 24, 1934 (48 STAT. 457) AND BY THE CORRESPONDING PROVISION OF THE ORDINANCE APPENDED TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES, I HEREBY RELEASE F ROM THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES ALL OF THE ORGANIZED MILITARY FORCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES CALLED AND ORDERED INTO THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO THE MILITARY ORDER OF JULY 26, 1941.

"THE SAID MILITARY ORDER OF JULY 26, 1941 IS HEREBY REVOKED.

"THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT JUNE 30, 1946."

(SGD) HARRY TRUMAN

=====

A MEMORABILIA

The TEXT OF THE PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON DATED October 17, 1996.

During the dark days of World War II, nearly 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army provided a ray of hope in the Pacific as they fought alongside United States and Allied forces for 4 long years to defend and reclaim the Philippines Islands from Japanese aggression. Thousands more Filipinos joined U.S. Armed Forces immediately after the war and served in occupation duty throughout the Pacific Theater. For their extraordinary sacrifices in defense of democracy and liberty, we owe them our undying gratitude.

Valiant Filipino soldiers fought, died and suffered in some of the bloodiest battles of WW-II, defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of Filipino prisoners of war endured the infamous Bataan Death March and years of captivity. Their many guerrilla actions slowed the Japanese takeover of the Western Pacific region and allowed U.S. forces the time to build and prepare for the allied counterattack on Japan. Filipino troops fought side-by-side with U.S. forces to secure their island nation as the strategic base from which the final effort to defeat Japan was launched.

This month, as we mark the anniversary of General MacArthur's return to the Philippines, we acknowledge the important role Filipino soldiers played in turning back aggression, defending liberty, and preserving democracy, and we extend to them our abiding thanks.

NOW, THEREFORE, I WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the united States, do hereby proclaim October 20, 1996, as a day Honoring the Filipino Veterans of World War II. I urge all Americans to recall the courage, sacrifice, and loyalty of Filipino veterans of World War II and honor them for their contribution to our freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hands this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, two hundred twenty first.

(SGD) WILLIAM J. CLINTON

### Postlude

For my fellow WW-II veterans who get hold of this treatise: I do wish them also to be enriched with the thought, as I did, that their services in the Armed forces of the United States in the Philippines had a much wider significance than just service in the defense and retrieval of the Philippines from the Japanese aggressor. For we shared an ample part in shaping the United States of America, from the 17th rank as a world power right after the depression of the late 30's to become the greatest power on earth and Champion of Freedom in the world. In the words of President William (Bill) Clinton, in his Proclamation of 1996, he said:

***"I urge all Americans to recall the courage, sacrifice and loyalty of Filipino veterans of WW-II and honor them for their contribution to our freedom."***

My efforts in compiling these materials shall not have been in vain if my fellow WW-II veterans and their families gained adequate information about how they were involved in the war between Japan and the USA and make them realize the great value of their services, not only to their countrymen and to the Americans but in/ perpetuating freedom and democracy in the world which succeeding generation will surely seek, foster and enjoy.

### DISCLAIMER

When this writer was conducting his research works from library facilities, he merely took hand notes from random reference books he got hold of from the shelves, purposely for his own personal consumption.


However, as he related his findings to his fellow veterans in the United States, many of them asked to put this loose leaf prints and provide them with zerox copies for their information. This continued for sometime until it developed into more sheets for lecturettes conducted for veterans groups, then to university student groups and then to the Filipino communities whenever applicable. Later on the writer was asked to organize the topics for leaders of veterans groups in an effort to equip them with basic materials for use in the advocacy and lobby for the restoration of veterans benefits in the U.S. Congress.

Since this paper is not intended for the profit of the writer, he did not find time to getting back at the reference books again in order to take the name of these books, the author, the copyright dates and holders and their addresses, for purposes of annotating the details copied there from.

This being the case, the writer disclaims first hand knowledge of all the historical data, events or information included in this treatise and does not claim this as an intellectual property. Furthermore, this treatise is not for sale.

However, a donation to the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans for lobby purposes and for the reimbursement of the cost of printing and binding is request from those who wants a copy of this treatise.

*About the writer's military service.*



Franco Farinas Arcebal, ASN 221117, rendered military service in a recognized guerrilla unit, the U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES, NORTH LUZON (USAFIP-NL) under the Command of Col. Russell W. Volckman (West Point Class '34), in the Medical Company of the 14th Infantry Regiment (USAFIP-NL) which regiment operated within the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Mountain Province. (Date of Recognition: 1 October 1943 as amended (from 9 Jan. 1945).

#### HIS INITIAL SERVICE: HORSESHOE MISSION AND CAPTURE

In the middle of July 1944, four months prior to his induction into the service, while on a routine business trip to Echague, Isabela on a horse rig (caromata) he volunteered to join his lone hitch-hike passenger, Sgt. Jose Tamayo, Company "C", 14th Inf. Reg. who was on a mission to gather military information on the Japanese strength, movements and position along the northern Luzon highways from the province of Nueva Vizcaya, through the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur to La Union, a route of about 500 kilometers long. This mission was dubbed "HORSESHOE MISSION"

On the sixteenth day they reach the southern most tip of Ilocos Sur where they contacted "Bolo Men" of the town of Tagudin, who brought them to the headquarters of the 121st Infantry Regiment (USAFIP-NL). There they rendered verbal report to Major Eulogio Balao (who later on became a Senator)

Thereafter, they proceeded on their return trip, via the same route. On the first day of their trip from Tagudin, they were arrested at the next town of Santa Cruz, north of Tagudin, at the Japanese outpost at the Bayugao bridge. (They learned later that their arrest was based on the strength of a report given to Japanese officials by a collaborator in Candon.)

After two days of interrogation and severe torture without food nor water and two sleepless nights at this outpost, they were turned over to the Candon Headquarters (at the Elementary School House). After another two days and nights and more intensive interrogations and severe tortures, they were finally sentenced to death by decapitation, which was to be carried out at sunrise on 24 August 1944.

Somehow, they escaped the sentence barely two and a half (2 1/2) hours the execution quite miraculously through a underground hole they bore undetected underneath the wall of the death prison cell which the Japanese tersely called "Monkey House" (this death chamber for Filipino guerrillas and pro-American sympathizers) The escape was indeed the first of its kind and therefore a big story in the town. The Japanese soldiers were spread out to recapture them but to no avail - for they sought refuge among the "Bolomen" at Galimuyod, east of Candon and then at Baugen further south east where they were taken cared by the Guerrilla Unit (led by Lieutenant E. Narcisi) After recuperating for about two weeks, they traversed the huge mountain range (Mt. Pulog) via Tirad Pass, Sagada, Hapao within sixteen (16) days starting from Baugen (Ilocos Sur, With the aid of a relay of native guides along the mountain trails and with the hospitality of various tribes at each end of the day they reached and reported to the headquarters of Company "C" 14th Inf. Reg. at their mountain hideout west of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

#### HIS ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE GUERRILLA RESISTANCE AND IN THE RETRIEVAL OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE JAPANESE AGGRESSORS.

Franco Arcebal was formally inducted into the service on November 1, 1944; he participated several guerrilla operations of the 2nd Bn. Under the Command of Major Zosimo Paredes and during the U.S. Sixth Army siege of the forces of Gen. Yamashita in the Mountain Province right after the 14th Infantry Regiment was attached - until Gen. Yamashita's surrender 2 September 1945 at Kiangang, a town now within the province of Ifugao. (Kiangang is within the territory of the 14th Inf. Reg. USAFIP-NL.) His unit was stationed at Kiangang town on the day of surrender; he witnessed the massive hauling of Japanese surrenderees at Kiangang on board six-by-six trucks for transport to the lowlands.

He was honorably discharged under Special Order No. 150 of the 14th Infantry Regiment, dated November 19, 1945 His record appears in the US Army records at St. Louis, Missouri, USA..

#### HIS IMMIGRATION TO THE USA and HIS ACTIVITIES ON VETERANS AFFAIRS THEREAT

He acquired an immigrant visa with his spouse to the USA and immigrated on December 1987; acquired his permanent residence status immediately and acquired his citizenship on August 10, 1988, under section 329 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act.

When he sought dental assistance from the Veteran's Clinic at Hill St, City of Los Angeles, he discovered that he was not eligible for treatment because his service was not recognized by the U.S. government. After a serious research works in 1990 on this issue which he felt was discriminating and unjust, he devoted his time in advocating for the restoration of Filipino WW-II veterans benefits in the US Congress. For this purpose, he joined the United Filipino-American WW-II Veterans, Inc. (UFAV) serve as Adjutant and Secretary of the Board of Directors)) and later on Commander (1995 - 2000

On veterans affairs, initially he joined lobby efforts for the passage of Sec. 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990. In 1996, he participated in the organization of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc. (The ACFV is Incorporated as a 501(c)(4) organization in 1996) Since its inception to date he is the Vice-President for Membership