

# HERITAGE OF VALOR:

## A History of the Philippine Scouts



**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

# PFSH

PRESERVATION FORT SAM HOUSTON

Preservation Fort Sam Houston is pleased to issue this revised version of the Fort Sam Houston Museum's Heritage of Valor: A History of the Philippine Scouts. This edition includes more photos to better illustrate the history of the Scouts. Mabuhay!



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER AND SCHOOL  
AND FORT SAM HOUSTON  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-5014

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8 October 2001

SUBJECT: The Philippine Scouts

During the Philippine Insurrection, the Army faced a manpower crisis in the Philippine Islands as many of the Volunteer regiments' terms of service were coming to an end. To alleviate the pending shortage of troops, the Congress authorized the enlistment of Filipinos into an organization known as the Philippine Scouts. General Order 310, from the Headquarters, Division of the Philippines, dated 8 October 1902, implemented this legislation. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Philippine Scouts. As an element of the United States Army, the Philippine Scouts existed for slightly more than four decades. Yet in that brief time, the Philippine Scouts earned a reputation for military professionalism and left behind a heritage of valor.

To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the formation of the Philippine Scouts, the Fort Sam Houston Museum is proud to publish this volume.

  
JOHN M MANGUSO  
Director, Fort Sam Houston Museum



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A History of the Philippine Scouts**

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## Origins of a Fighting Force

The United States Army arrived in the Philippines in July 1898 during the War with Spain. Manila was captured and the Spanish forces capitulated on 14 August 1898. Under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris ending the war, Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States. While these negotiations were in progress, General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the insurrecto army, declared a provisional republic and prepared to resist the American possession of the Philippines. Fighting broke out in February 1899 in Manila. Operations were begun to suppress the Insurrection and additional Regular and Volunteer troops were mobilized in the US for service in the Philippines. By the spring of 1900, most of the heavy fighting was over. Guerrilla warfare continued, however. Between the onset of fighting and the summer of 1902, there would be some 2,800 engagements of various sizes. The Volunteers were to be sent home in 1901, leaving the force in the Philippines at about half of what it had been.

To continue the pacification of the islands, the Congress authorized the enlistment of six thousand native Filipinos into the Army. As early as September 1899, Filipinos had been hired to serve as scouts and to perform other military functions. They were employees of the Quartermaster Department rather than soldiers. Some sources credit the Macabebe Scouts, formed in connection with operations in central Luzon, as the first unit of Scouts. Indeed, it was a group of Macabebes that participated in Frederic Funston's operation in March of 1901 which captured Aguinaldo. Other sources credit the origin of the Scouts to the organization of four companies known as the Cagayan Native Scouts on northern Luzon, commanded by lieutenants from the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. All of these efforts followed the Army's unwritten doctrine of enrolling local manpower to supplement the Army's combat power.

The Philippine Department's General Order 310 on 8 October 1901 authorized the recruitment, rather than hiring, of Filipino men as soldiers throughout the islands. Under this order, there would be some fifty companies of one hundred men recruited from all over the islands. The units were led by officers appointed from the regiments serving in the Philippines or commissioned from among the enlisted ranks of the Regular Army. Cognizant of the eighty-seven dialects spoken in the Philippines and numerous ethnic groups, the Army recruited the members of each Scout company from within the same province, giving companies that were ethnically and linguistically homogeneous. Each company spoke the dialect where it served and the men knew the terrain on which they operated. By 1908, though, the language differences were disregarded except for the Moro and Igorote units. Beginning in 1904, the Scout companies began to be grouped together into four-company battalions and stationed in areas where the insurrection still simmered.

The uniform regulations adopted in December 1902, for the United States Army stated:

“The uniform for of Native Troops in the Philippines shall be the cotton service uniform of the infantry and cavalry, according to their organization,

the letter “P” taking the place of the number of the regiment wherever it occurs.”

In the field, the Scouts wore the olive drab cotton trousers with laced canvas leggings, blue wool pullover shirt and campaign hat. Their equipment included the caliber .45-70 Springfield “Trapdoor” Carbines and Mills cartridge belt.

The Philippine Scouts units played a major role in the pacification of the Moros on Mindanao and the Jolo Archipelago between 1902 and 1913. They also conducted operations to suppress the Pulajanes on Cebu and Samar. Between the major campaigns, the Scouts conducted extensive patrolling in small parties, hunting for bandits and insurrectos.

Table 1. Organization of Philippine Scout Battalions (1910)

Battalion	Companies		Station
1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>		Macabebes Mindanao
2 <sup>nd</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ilocanos	Luzon
3 <sup>rd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> , 34 <sup>th</sup>	Tagalogs	Mindanao
4 <sup>th</sup>	37 <sup>th</sup> , 43 <sup>rd</sup> , 48 <sup>th</sup> , 49 <sup>th</sup>	Visayans	Mindanao
5 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>	Ilocanos	Mindanao
6 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ilocanos	Samar
7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup>	Macabebes	Corregidor
8 <sup>th</sup>	35 <sup>th</sup> , 38 <sup>th</sup> , 39 <sup>th</sup> , 41 <sup>st</sup>	Visayans	Leyte
9 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cagayans	Luzon
10 <sup>th</sup>	36 <sup>th</sup> , 40 <sup>th</sup> , 44 <sup>th</sup> , 50 <sup>th</sup>	Visayans	Luzon
11 <sup>th</sup>	42 <sup>nd</sup> , 45 <sup>th</sup> , 46 <sup>th</sup> , 47 <sup>th</sup>	Visayans	Samar
12 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 33 <sup>rd</sup>		Macabebes Palawan
Unattached	19 <sup>th</sup>	Ilocanos	Luzon
	32 <sup>nd</sup>	Bicols	Luzon
	51 <sup>st</sup>	Moros	Mindanao
	52 <sup>nd</sup>	Moros	Mindanao

The stationing of the battalions reflected the security situation in the Philippines at that time.

In combat operations between the formation of the Scouts and 1915, casualties amounted to 108 killed in action or died of wounds and 174 wounded. Two members of the Philippine Scouts were awarded the Medal of Honor during these operations.

The first was Private Jose Nisperos, 34<sup>th</sup> Company. In an action on 24 September 1911 at Lapurap, Basilan on Mindanao, Private Nisperos was badly wounded (his left arm was broken and lacerated and he had received several spear wounds in his body so that he could not stand). Despite his wounds, Nisperos continued to fire his rifle with one hand until the enemy was repulsed. He thereby contributed materially in preventing the annihilation of his party and the mutilation of their bodies.

The second was Second Lieutenant Louis C. Mosher. In a fight at Gagsak Mountain, Jolo, on 11 June 1913, Lieutenant Mosher entered a cleared space within twenty yards of the Moro trenches under a furious fire and carried a wounded soldier from his company to safety.

Though active combat operations in the Philippine Insurrection ended in 1913, pacification continued.

Soon after the outbreak of the First World War, the Regular Army units of the garrison of the Philippines began to be withdrawn. The 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry and the 15<sup>th</sup> Cavalry departed the Philippines, leaving only the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment in the Islands. This left the Philippine Scouts as the principal force for the defense of the Philippines. In April of 1918, twelve of the thirteen Scout battalions and the separate companies were organized into five provisional regiments.

Table 2. Composition of the Philippine Provisional Regiments (1918)

<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Battalions and Companies</u>	<u>Station</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Infantry	1 <sup>st</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Battalions; 69 <sup>th</sup> , 70 <sup>th</sup> and 71 <sup>st</sup> Companies	Fort McKinley
2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry	4 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> Battalions; 62 <sup>nd</sup> , 73 <sup>rd</sup> , 74 <sup>th</sup> and 75 <sup>th</sup> Companies	Fort McKinley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalions	Camp McGrath
4 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> Battalions	Fort Mills
1 <sup>st</sup> Artillery (Mountain)	11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> Battalions	Camp Stotsenberg
1 <sup>st</sup> Engineers	37 <sup>th</sup> , 85 <sup>th</sup> and 86 <sup>th</sup> Companies	

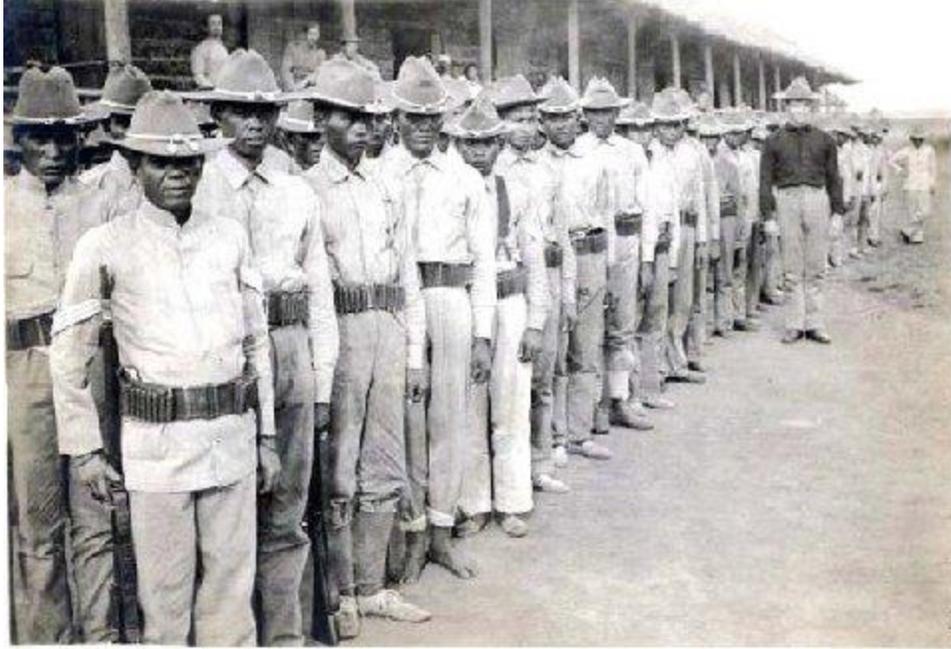
The 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Artillery was armed with 2.95" mountain howitzers.



*Philippine Scout Field Uniform*



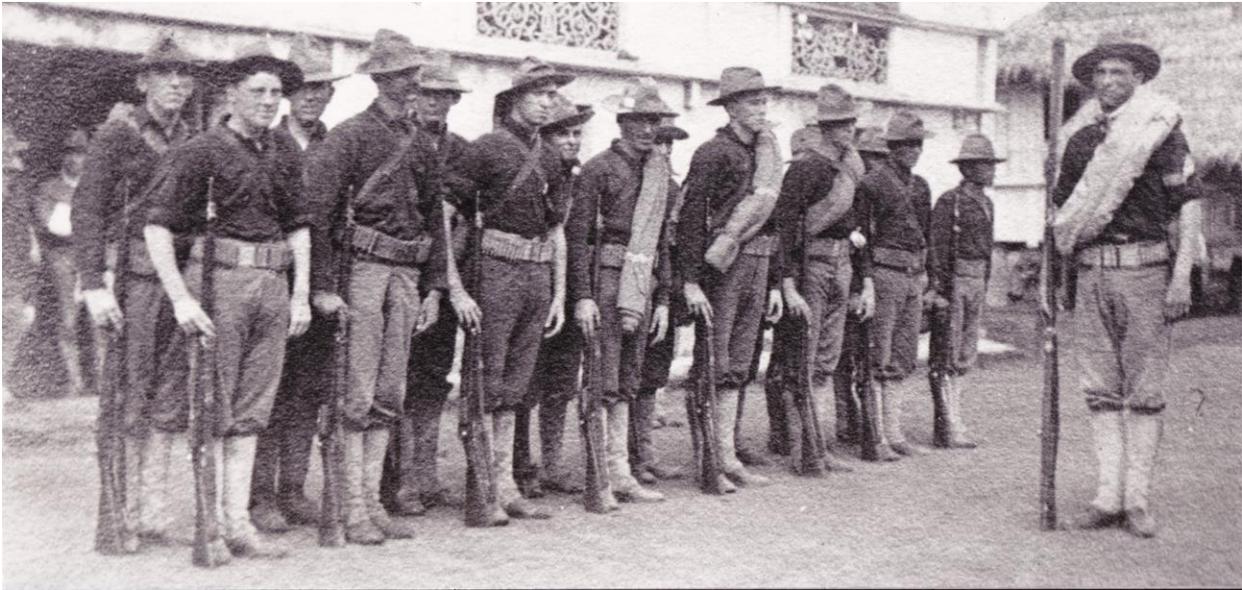
*Group of Macabebes employed as scouts with their American chief.*



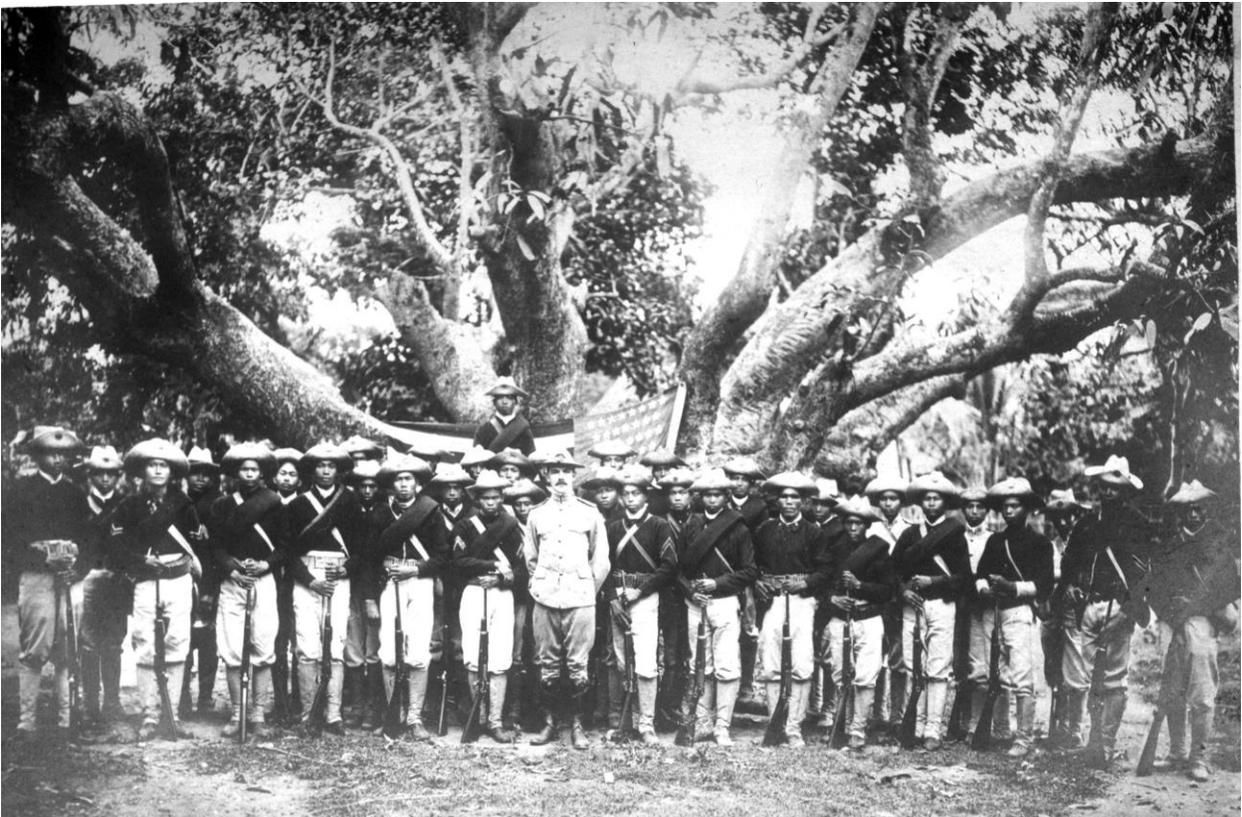
Macabebe Scouts armed with Krag-Jorgensen Rifles



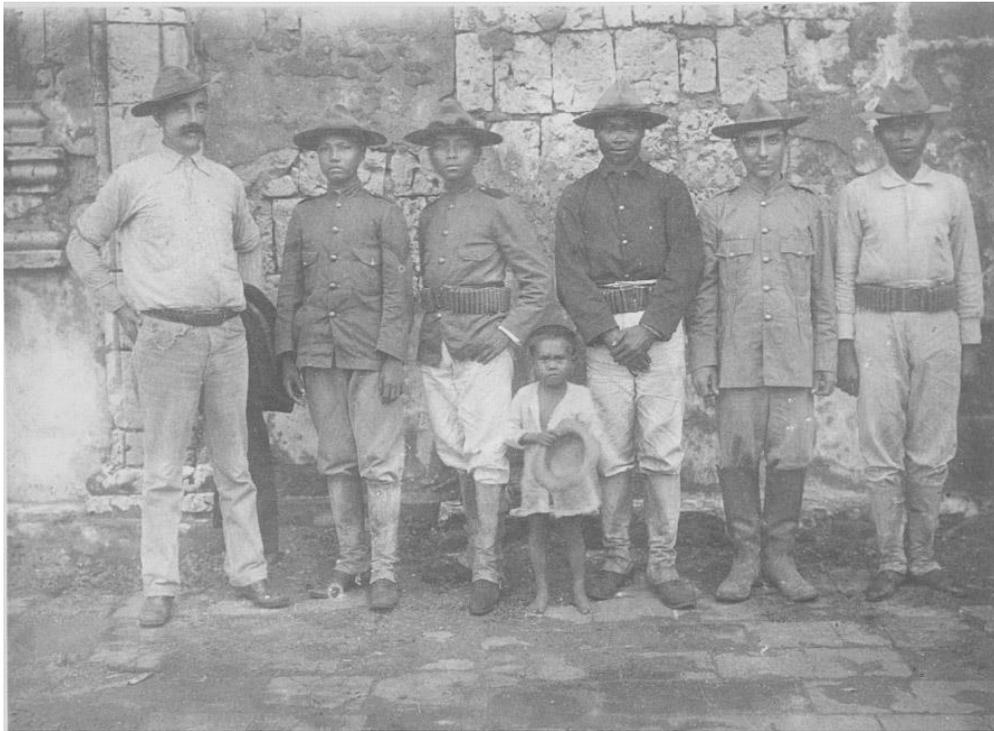
*Three Scouts in the field. The center Scout has a Trapdoor Springfield rifle*



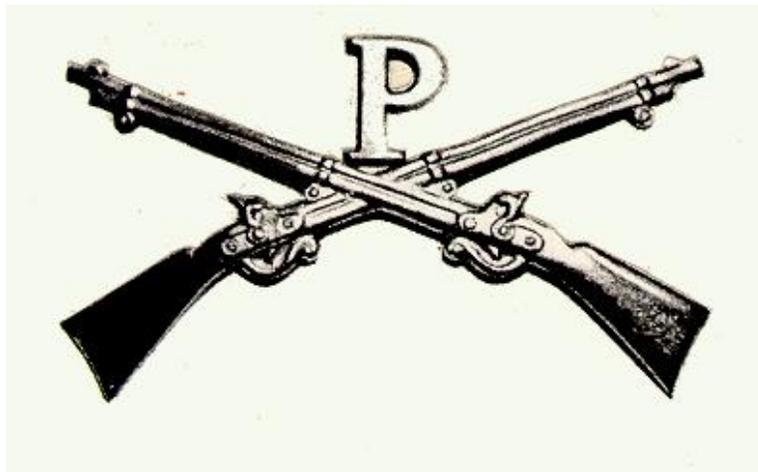
*Soldiers from Company H, 43<sup>rd</sup> US Volunteer Infantry prepare to go on patrol with two Filipinos (front rank, far right) on Leyte, 1900-01.*



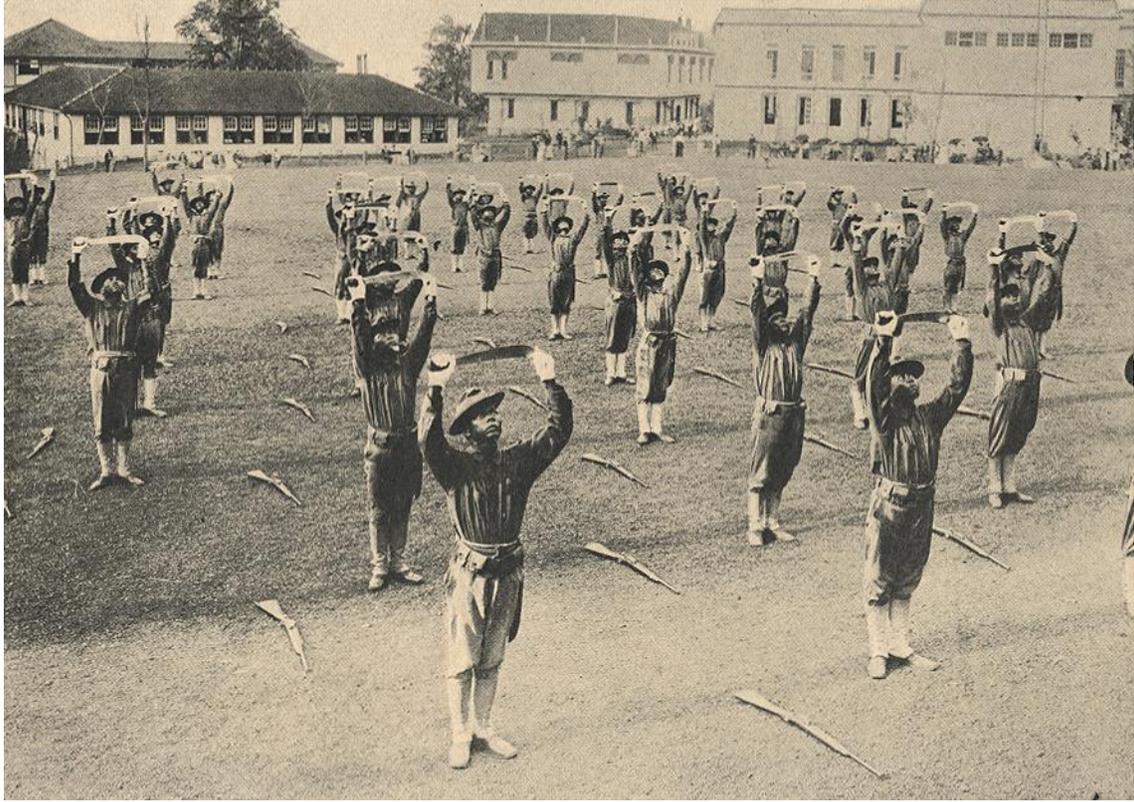
*Lieutenant Joseph M. Harris with the 38<sup>th</sup> Company of Visayans.*



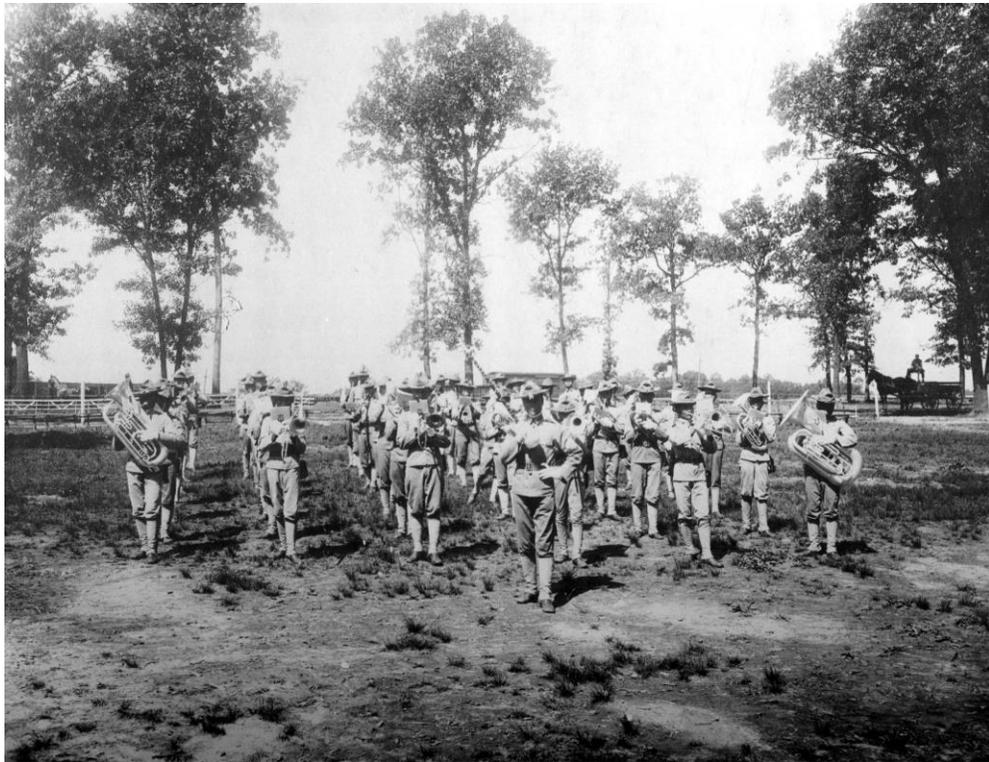
Sergeant Burke, left, with a group of Scouts, about 1902



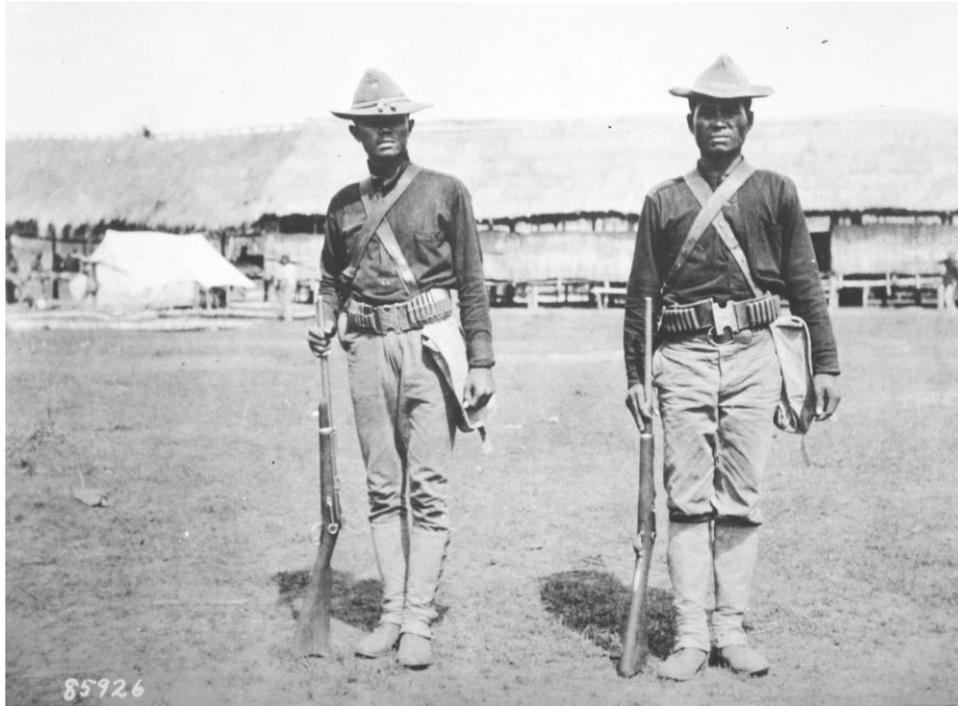
*Branch Insignia for the Philippine Scouts, 1902*



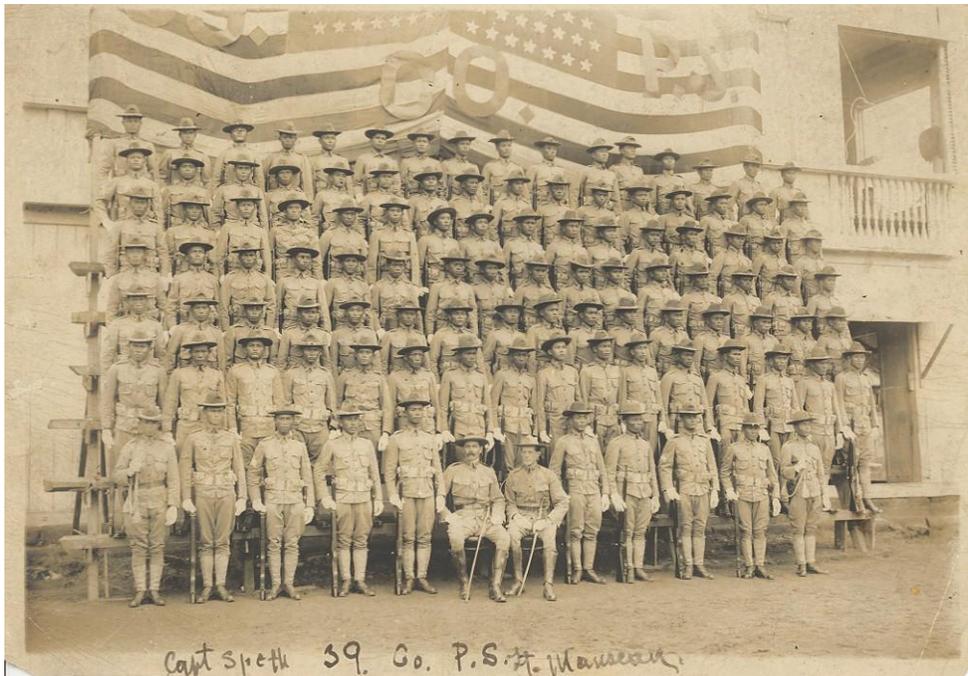
*Scouts conduct drill with their bolo knives*



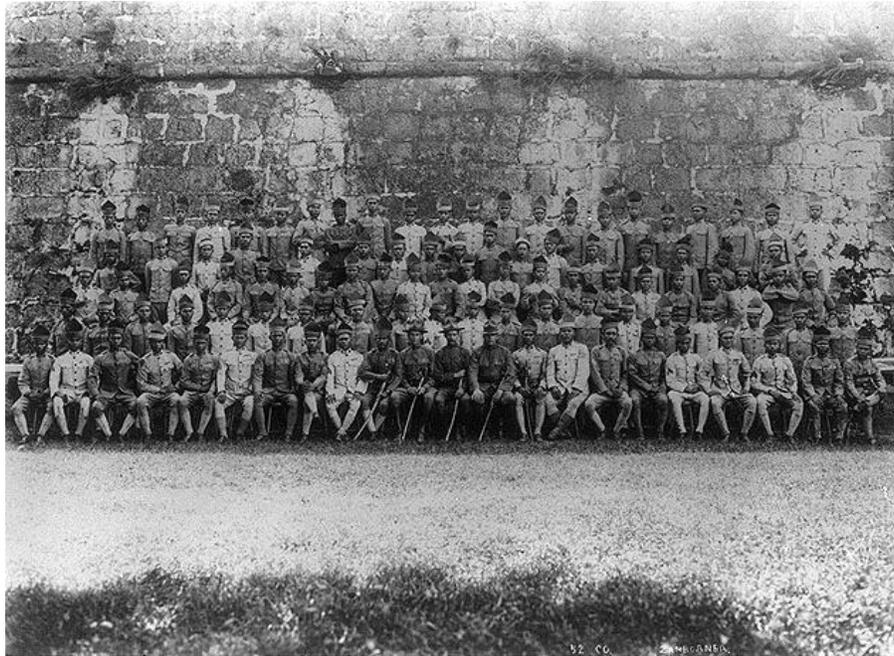
*Philippine Scout Band, 1904*



*Two Scouts equipped for field service with the Springfield "trapdoor" carbine and Mills cartridge belt, 1904*



*Capt Speth 39. Co. P.S. H. Massena  
Captain Speth and the 39<sup>th</sup> Company (PS)*



*52<sup>nd</sup> Company, Philippine Scouts (Sulu Moros) 1909*



*Two Moro scouts armed with the M1903 Springfield Rifle with the bolo bayonet. They wear the tubau headgear which permits the wearer to touch his forehead to the ground during the five daily occasions for prayer without disarranging the uniform.*



Major H. S. HOWLAND, the popular young officer of Philippine Scouts with his staff and other officers of the Fourth Battalion at Camp Daraga, Albay

*First Row*, left to right, (seated): 1st Lieut. B. B. WARRINER, Medical Reserve Corps; Capt. W. D. SHEPARD; Major H. S. HOWLAND; 1st Lieut. W. E. BARTLETT, Medical Corps; 2nd Lieut. C. E. DORITY

*Second Row* (standing): 2nd Lieut. L. C. O'LOUGHLIN; 1st Lieut. G. H. RATHGEBER, Adjutant; 1st Lieut. G. C. CHARLTON; Capt. N. E. COOK  
2nd Lieut. R. S. BOWMAN; Capt. HENRY RODGERS; 2nd Lieut. R. A. GILLMORE, Quartermaster and Commissary



The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Philippine Scouts, in formation

## **Philippine Scouts Becomes Part of the Regular Army**

In the post-war reorganization of the Army, the size of the permanent garrison the Philippines was determined to be one infantry division, one cavalry regiment and two coast artillery regiments. To man these units, six thousand Philippine Scouts would be inducted into the Regular Army. Four Regular Infantry Regiments, the 43<sup>rd</sup>, the 45<sup>th</sup>, the 57<sup>th</sup> and the 62<sup>nd</sup> were transferred from the United States to the Philippines, less their enlisted personnel. There, the regiments were consolidated with the existing Philippine Scout units to form the infantry component of the new Philippine Division in 1920.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry was consolidated with the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Philippine Scout Battalions. The 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry was consolidated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Infantry Regiment. The 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry was consolidated with 2<sup>nd</sup> Provisional Infantry Regiment. The 62<sup>nd</sup> was consolidated with the 4<sup>th</sup> Provisional Infantry Regiment. The 43<sup>rd</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiments had "Philippine Scouts" added to their designations. The new regiments were composed on Filipino enlisted men and were officered by a mixture of Regular Army officers, by former Philippine Scout Officers and by Filipino graduates of West Point and the US Naval Academy.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was organized in 1921 from the 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Artillery. Each of its six batteries had been organized from the personnel of a single Scout Company. The 25<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was formed from a cadre from the 24<sup>th</sup>. Additional units were organized—14<sup>th</sup> Engineers (PS) and 12<sup>th</sup> Signal Company (PS), 12<sup>th</sup> Medical and 12<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Regiments (PS) --and the Philippine Division was formed in January 1922. The 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, a non-Scout unit from the garrison of Luzon was attached to the Division for training.

In May 1922, the shoulder sleeve insignia for the Philippine Division was approved by the War Department. It consisted of the head of a yellow carabao on a red spade-shaped shield. Non-divisional units wore the insignia of the Philippine Department—a white sea lion brandishing a sword on a blue oval.

The defense of Manila and Subic Bays was essential to the defense of the Philippines. Two Philippine Scout Coast Artillery Regiments, the 91<sup>st</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup>, were formed in 1922 to augment the two Regular Army regiments defending those areas.

In 1922, the strength reductions which were affecting the strength of the Army also hit the Philippine Department. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (PS) was disbanded. The 43d Infantry (PS) was broken up and its personnel distributed to the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the other new units. The 25th Field Artillery (PS) was disbanded and its personnel were transferred to the new 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS). The 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry received the transfer of some officers from the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, which was returning stateside, and its horses.

Units of the new division concentrated at first on individual and small unit training. The training schedule was dictated by the weather system in the Philippines. The first five

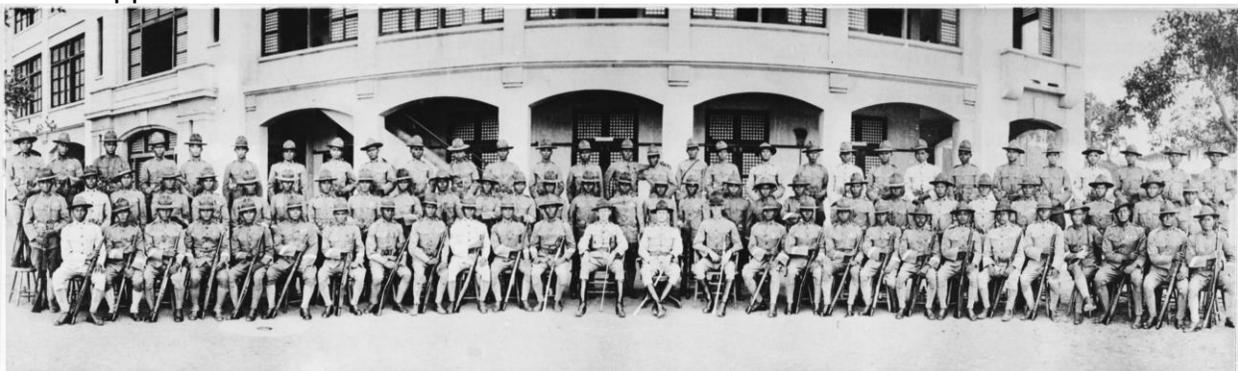
months of the year were the dry season which favored outdoor training. January was devoted to maneuvers. In February and March, individual and basic training were conducted, along with preliminary marksmanship. In April, range firing was conducted as well as squad, platoon and company field problems. During the month of May, competitions were held to select the individuals and teams which would represent the Army-wide competitions. During the rainy season, the emphasis was on classroom instruction. Unit and divisional schools were established.

The Philippine Division conducted its first divisional field exercise in January 1925 with the division defending the approaches to Manila against an invading force at Batangas to the south. In subsequent years, combined arms exercises were continued and supplemented by detailed reconnaissances of Luzon by the officers and senior non-commissioned officers.

Induction of the Philippine Scouts into the Regular Army made the profession of soldier more attractive. Married non-commissioned officers received a housing allowance. On the edge of each post, a housing area was constructed for married personnel. These sections were known as the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 12<sup>th</sup> Medical or whatever unit, Barrio. The sergeant major of the organization functioned as the “mayor” of the barrio.

The Philippine Scouts seldom were short of recruits. In fact, there were often more men seeking to enlist than there were vacancies. Many of the Scouts were keen to have their sons enlist. Often, the Scout companies would hire a potential recruit as a KP or barber. In that role, the potential recruit received his initial military instruction as on-the-job training. When a vacancy in the company occurred, the commander and first sergeant could select the best KP to move up into the vacancy.

Led by Regular Army officers, the Philippine Scouts became the epitome of the professional long-service Regulars and the backbone of the Army's defense forces in the Philippines.



*Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Provisional Infantry Regiment (PS), 1921*



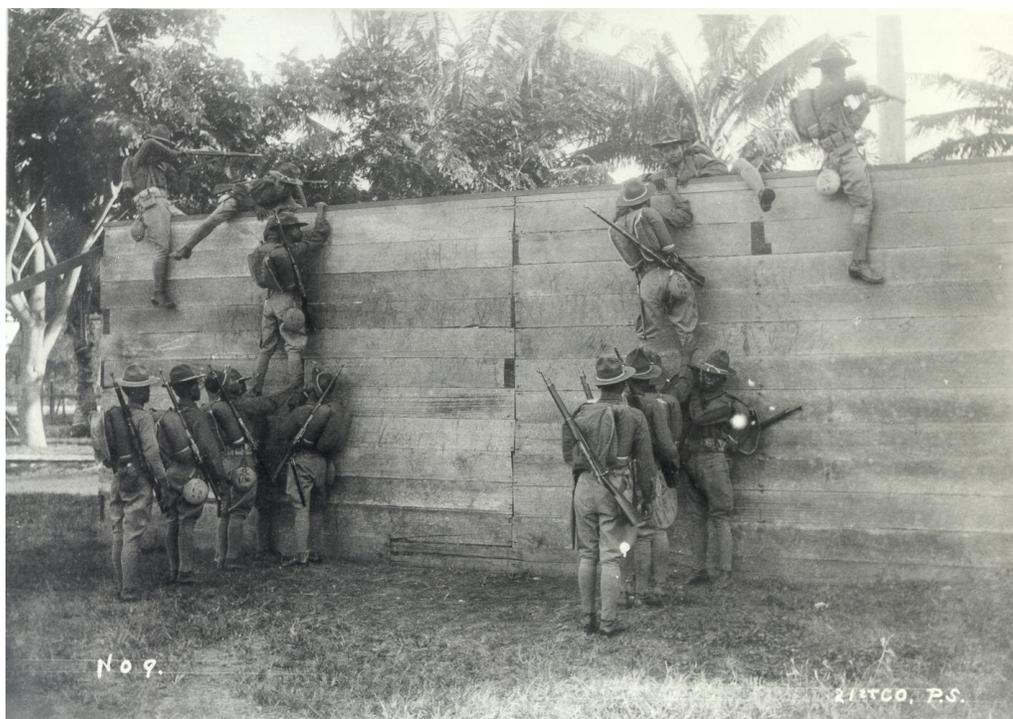
*Lt. Carley Marshall, CPL Cananigo and PFC Villaverde on Bataan, 1921*

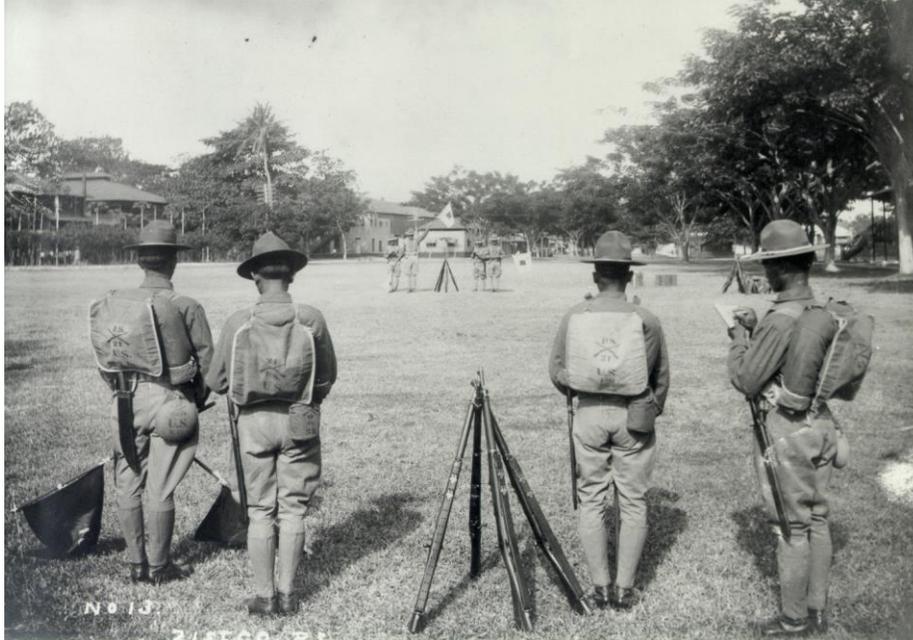


*A Philippine Scout and his family at their quarters in a family housing area, referred to as a barrio.*

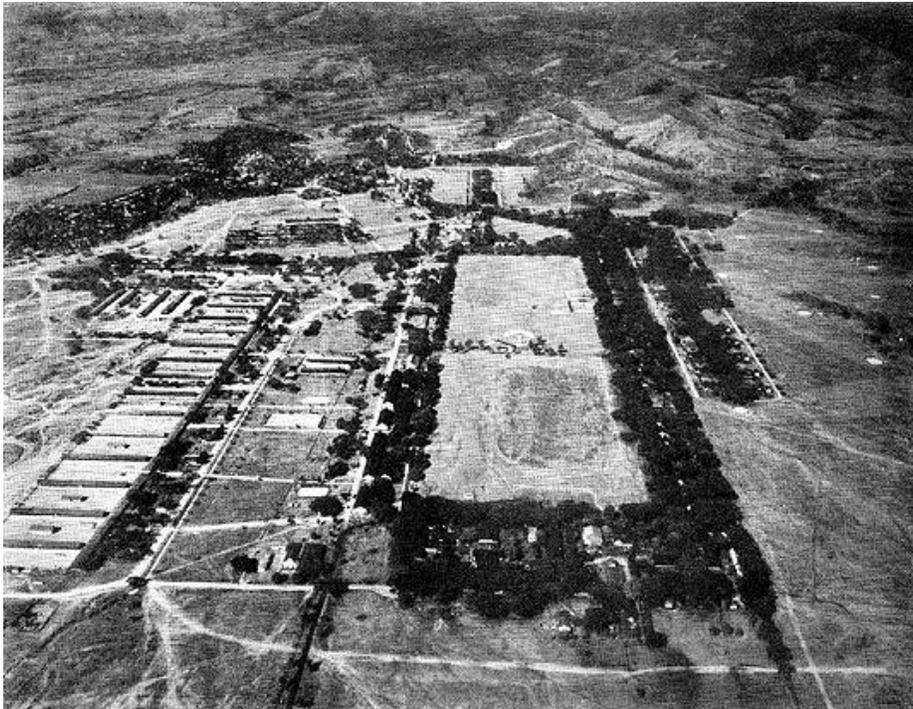


*Above: 21<sup>st</sup> Company (PS) conducts bayonet drill; below scaling a wall.*





*21<sup>st</sup> Company (PS) trains with signal flags*



*Fort Stotsenberg, near Angeles City Luzon and adjacent to Clark Field, was home for the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) and the Philippine Scouts field artillery, 1937*



*Officer quarters at Camp John Hay, near Baguio*



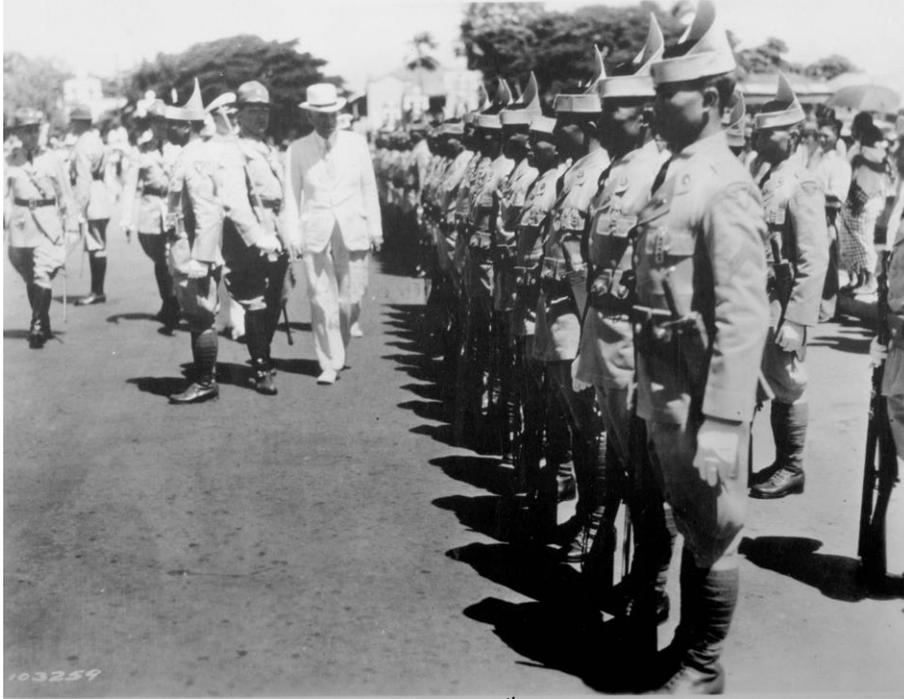
*Troops from the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) at Petit Barracks enroute to the rifle range, 1933*



*57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) Scout with fully loaded packmule.*



*A rifle squad traveling in a native bull cart, 1931*



*Inspection of Company F, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) in 1937*

## Emerging Threats Shape Strategy

The Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 halted the construction of new fortifications in the Philippines. Given the limited size of the garrison of the Philippines, the vast extent of the Philippines and the proximity of potentially hostile forces, defense of the entire Philippine Archipelago was not possible. Instead, effort was concentrated on the key island of Luzon. Given the distance from the mainland to the Philippines, the defense would have to be conducted with the forces available at the outbreak of hostilities.

In what would be known as War Plan Orange, the defense of the Philippine Islands would rest upon two pillars. The first was the retention of Manila Bay. The second was the US Navy. Manila Bay was protected by the coast defense fortifications on Corregidor, Caballo, El Fraile and Carabao Islands. As these island positions were dominated by the high ground on the Bataan Peninsula, Bataan had to be held as well. While the Cavalry delayed the enemy's approach to the Manila area, the Philippine Division and the Coast Artillery would secure Bataan and Manila Bay. There, they would hold out until the US Fleet steamed across the Pacific to relieve them. To carry out this plan, the Philippine Division trained and practiced the delay and defense until they were very proficient.

In 1935, the Philippines were granted commonwealth status with full independence scheduled for 1946. In preparation for that, a Philippine Army of ten 7,500-man divisions was planned for the islands' self defense. The Philippine Scouts played a key role in the mobilization and training of the Philippine Army. The call-up of men was begun in 1937. Philippine Scout officers and NCOs were detailed as instructors and inspectors. Other officers were detailed to administer the training program.

Mobilization of the Philippine Army Divisions was begun in September 1941. Again, the Philippine Scouts were to play a key role. Each of the ten Philippine Army divisions was assigned a detachment of forty officers and twenty NCOs from the Philippine Scouts. These detachments served as advisors and instructors. Other former Philippine Scout officers were assigned to key command and staff positions in the Philippine Army divisions. Still other Philippine Scout officers and NCOs were assigned as instructors in the several service schools for the division staffs, commanders and specialists. Training was hampered by severe shortages of equipment, particularly machineguns, artillery, vehicles and communications equipment.

The garrison of the Philippines was increased in 1941 by the expansion of the Philippine Scouts and by the arrival of reinforcements from the United States. The artillery was expanded from the original 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions, 24<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery to include the 23<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion (2.95" pack howitzers and 75mm guns), the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the 88<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (75mm guns), the 86<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion (155mm GPF guns) and three battalions of 75mm guns mounted on half-tracks. Some of these units would serve as divisional artillery; others as corps and higher echelon artillery.

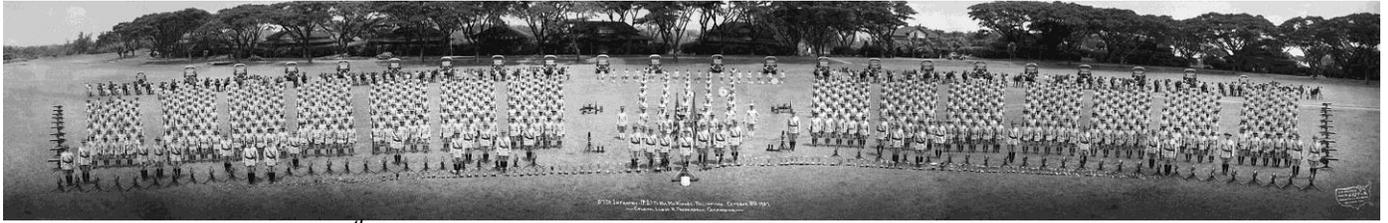
The 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) had its scout cars updated to the newer M-3A1 model. The 91<sup>st</sup> and the 92<sup>nd</sup> Coast Artillery (PS) in the harbor defenses of Manila received an additional 500 Scouts to better enable them to man their guns. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry was activated at Camp John Hay from troops of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The infantry regiments were reorganized and recruited up to full strength. New equipment arrived, including the 37mm M-3 Antitank gun, radios and the M-1 Garand semi-automatic rifle.

From the United States came the 200<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment and the 192<sup>nd</sup> and 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalions, all from the National Guard.

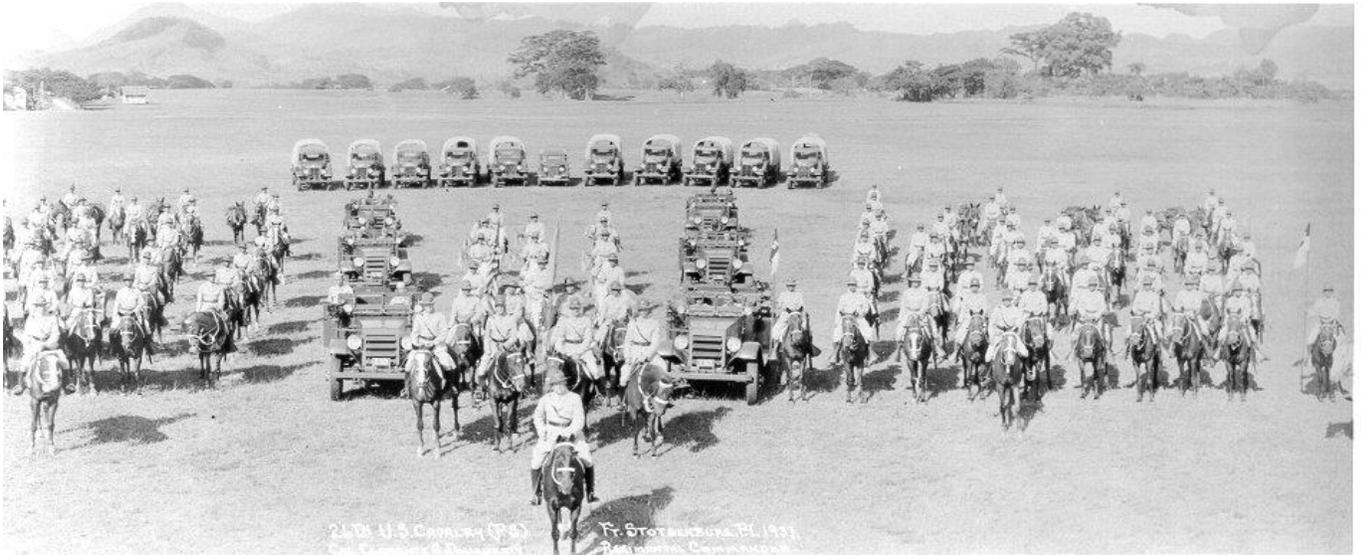
According to General Douglas MacArthur's estimate, the preparations for war by the Philippine Army and the garrison of the Philippines would be completed in April 1942. These improvements in the forces available in the Philippines convinced MacArthur that a more aggressive defense of the Philippines was possible. Rather than delay back to Bataan, MacArthur proposed to defend the beaches and defeat the Japanese there. Orders to carry out this new plan were issued on 3 December 1941.



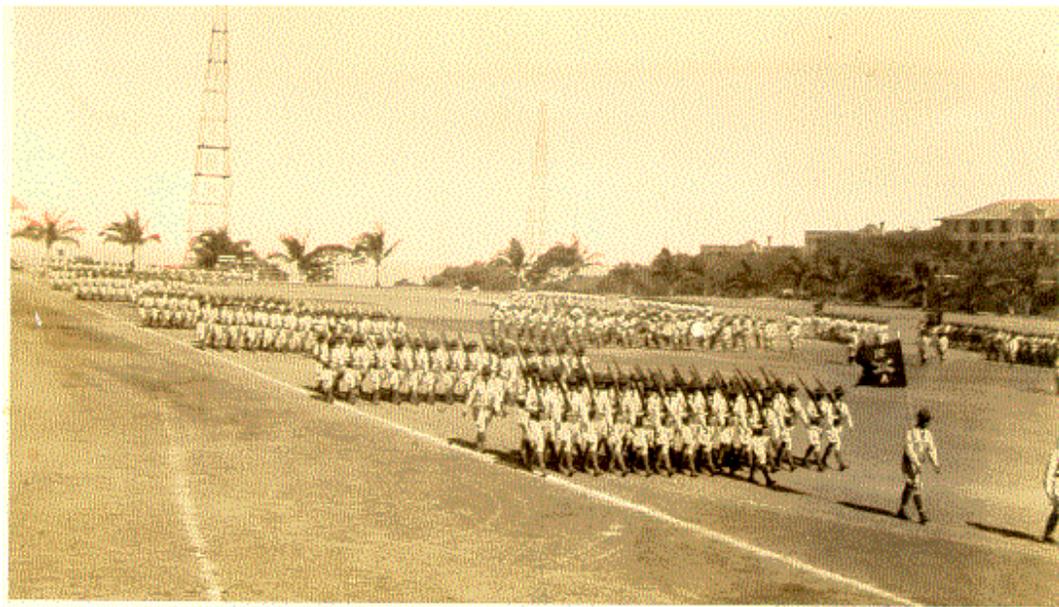
*CPT Wheelers leads the Machinegun Troop, 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS), 1941*



*The 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) at Fort William McKinley, 1937*



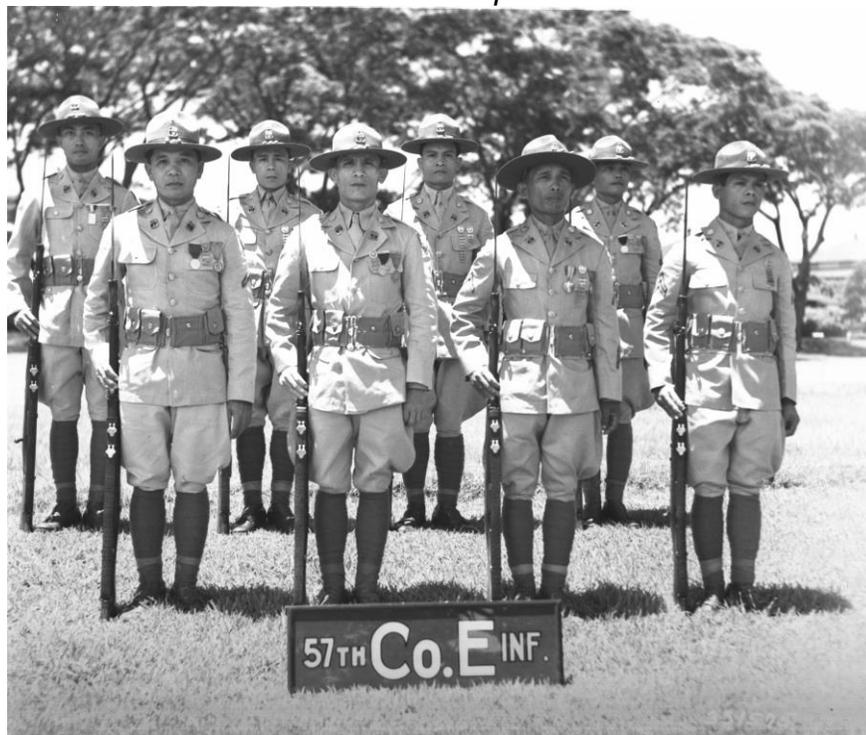
*Part of the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) with scout cars and horses at Fort Stotsenburg*



*91<sup>st</sup> Coast Artillery (PS) passes in review at Topside, Corregidor*



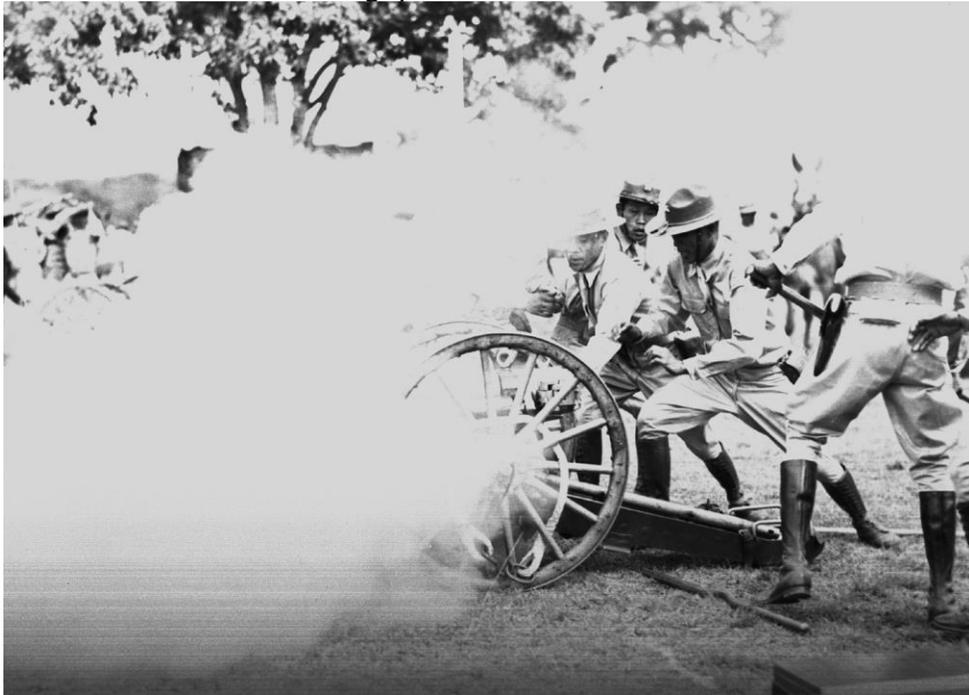
*Corporal Mariano Rayray, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS), 15 June 1947. A Scout since 1911, Rayray was awarded the Philippine Insurrection Campaign Medal and the World War I Victory Medal. His Expert Marksmanship Medal shows qualification bars for five different weapons.*



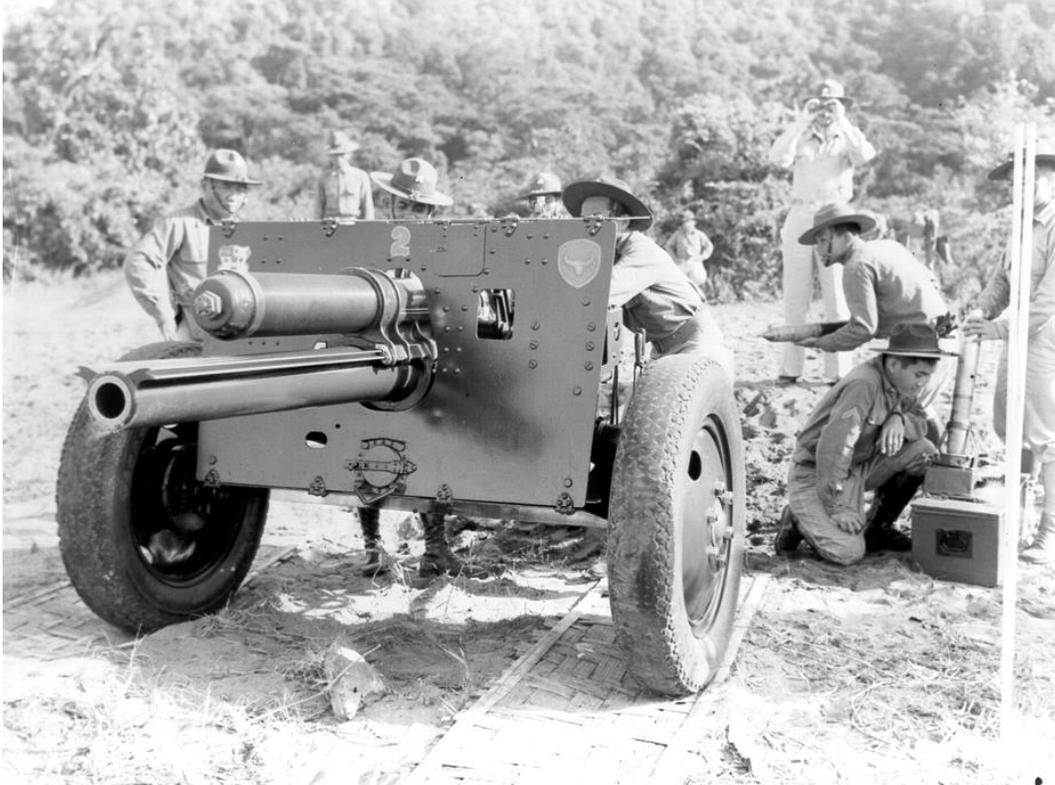
*Combat Team of Company E, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) for the Chief of Infantry competition, 6 June 1938*



Heavily armed scout car from HQ Troop, 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) swings into action on Olongapo, 2 October 1940.



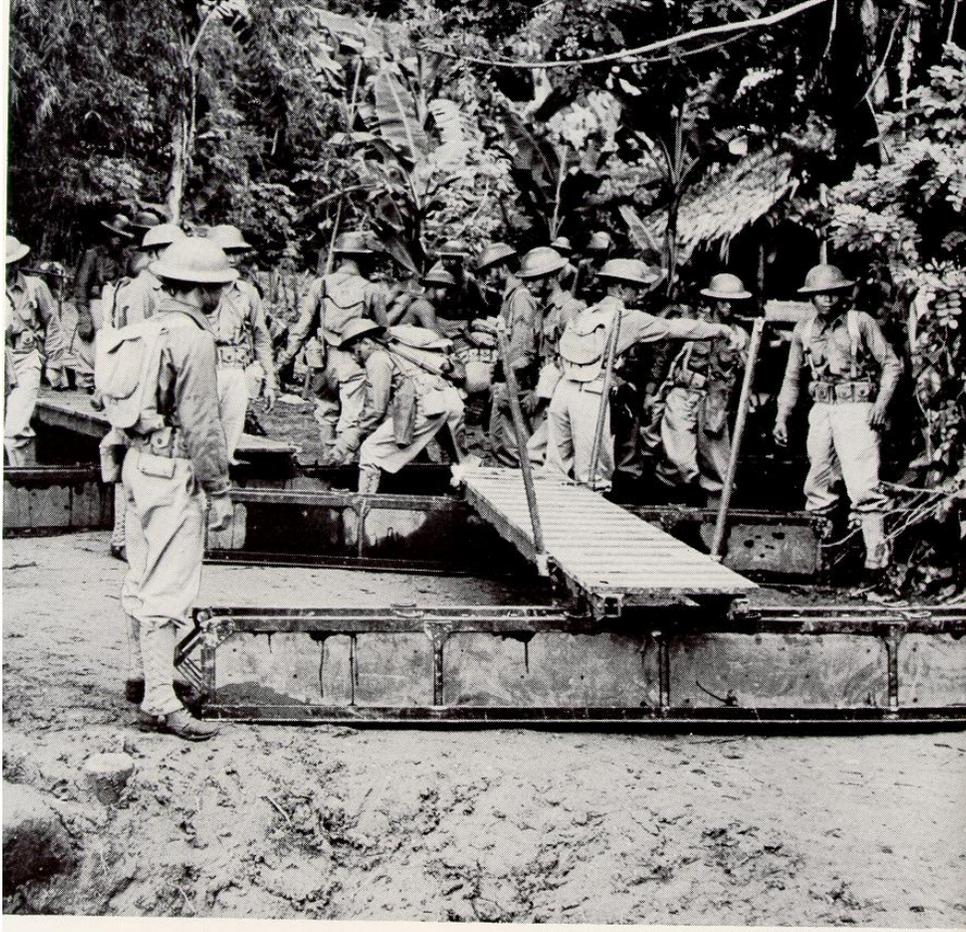
October 1940 at Olongapo: Cannoneers of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery(PS) fire the 2.95" Vickers-Maxim mountain gun. The 830 pound gun which could be broken down into four pack mule loads could hurl a 12.5 pound shell to a range of 4,825 yards.



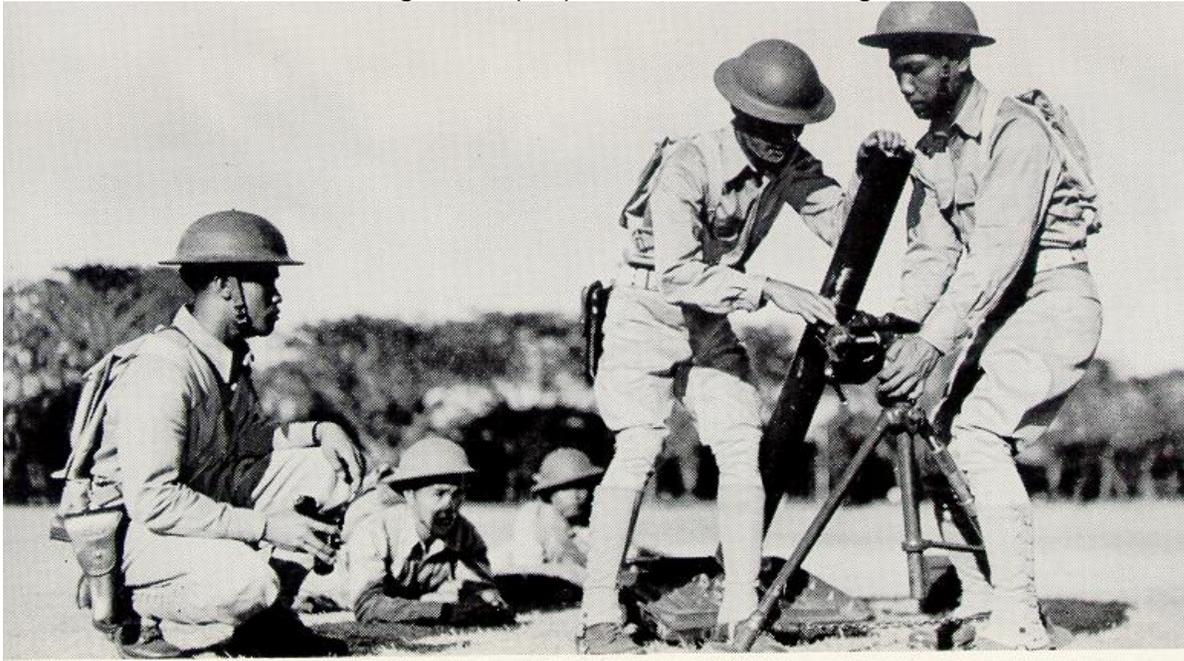
*Service practice by the 24<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (PS) with the M1917 Field Gun\*



*Scouts put a 37mm M-3 antitank Gun into action*



*14<sup>th</sup> Engineers (PS) construct a footbridge*



*Scouts set up a mortar*



*First Sergeant gives instructions to platoon sergeants in Company F, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) at Fort McKinley before moving to the field.*



*Cadre from the Philippine Scouts instruct trainees from the Philippine Army in the firing of the M1918 Browning water-cooled machinegun*

# PHILIPPINE ISLANDS 1941-1942

## Defense of Philippines 1941-42

The Second World War burst upon the Philippines on 8 December 1942 with Japanese air attacks on Clark Field. These attacks destroyed most of the American airpower in the Philippines. Army units on Luzon deployed from their garrisons to defensive positions covering Lingayen Gulf and the southern approaches to Manila. The Philippine Division moved into a reserve position near Fort Stotsenberg.

After preliminary landings on the northern and southern ends of Luzon, units of the Japanese 14<sup>th</sup> Army conducted its main landing at Lingayen Gulf on 22 December. Supported by tanks and artillery, the Japanese successfully established themselves ashore. The poorly equipped Philippine Army divisions were unable to repel the landings or contain the Japanese in the beachhead. The 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry advanced to contact and conducted a delay as the Japanese advanced.

A second Japanese force made an amphibious landing at Lamon Bay, southeast of Manila on 24 December and began to advance toward Manila. MacArthur's defense plan had failed. On the day after Christmas, MacArthur ordered the withdrawal to the Bataan peninsula. General Wainwright's forces, including the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, conducted a series of delaying actions south along the Lingayen Plain, covering the movement of to Bataan. When part of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry and a troop of the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were cut off by the Japanese advance, these troops withdrew into the mountains and held out as guerillas until 1945.

The Fil-American forces below Manila began to withdraw through Manila to Bataan. The withdrawal was assisted by a group of three hundred retired Philippine Scouts under retired scout officer Major Montgomery McKee. This veteran group answered the call of duty and assembled at Ft McKinley. Rushed to the battlefield SE of Manila in taxicabs, they stiffened the defense by the Philippine Army.

Units of the Philippine Division established positions at Zig-Zag and the Calumpit bridges to hold the Japanese at bay north of the base of the Bataan peninsula while the main forces from Luzon moved into Bataan. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 88<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was supporting the defensive line behind the Culo River held by the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry and Philippine Army units. When one of the gun positions was knocked out by enemy fire, Mess Sergeant Jose Calugas voluntarily ran one thousand yards across a shell swept area and put the gun back into action and fired effectively against the enemy although his position was under constant, heavy enemy fire. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Under the cover of these delaying actions, the forces on Luzon successfully withdrew into the Bataan peninsula. The complicated and dangerous withdrawal while in contact with the enemy was accomplished in spite of the ill-equipped and inadequately trained Philippine Army thanks to the leadership of General Wainwright and the cadres of Philippine Scouts. Unfortunately for the defense of Bataan, large stocks of supplies and food intended to sustain the defenders for a protracted defense were destroyed or abandoned before they could be moved to Bataan. The resulting lack of food, ammunition, weapons and medical supplies would prove to be critical factors in the battles ahead. The defenders were put on half rations almost immediately upon arrival on Bataan.

By 7 January 1942, the main battle position was established on Bataan between Mabatang on the east coast and Mauban on the west coast. As the best-trained units available, the Philippine Division (-) and 26th Cavalry (PS) were held in reserve to carry out counterattacks. The 57th Infantry (PS) defended the vital coastal sector on the eastern flank of the defense line near Abucay. A second defense line was started to the south from Orion on the east coast to Bagac on the west coast.

Heavy Japanese attacks with tanks, infantry and artillery began on 9 January. The fighting raged back and forth for days. On 12 January in the sector held by the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Lieutenant Alexander R. Ninninger, Jr. led a party of Philippine Scouts in cleaning out Japanese infiltrators. He repeatedly forced his way into the enemy positions and engaged in hand to hand combat. Although wounded three times, he continued his attacks until he was killed after pushing on alone into the enemy position. Ninninger was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

On 16 January, the Philippine Division was committed to counterattack the Japanese penetration of the eastern portion of the line and again on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Units of the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry counterattacked against a Japanese penetration in the western sector. Despite some limited success in these counterattacks, the American position deteriorated as the Japanese managed to penetrate the center of the line. On 22 January, orders were issued to withdraw to the Orion-Bagac position. On the next night, the withdrawal was begun, with the Philippine Division serving as the covering force.

At about the same time, the Japanese mounted three amphibious landings on the southwest coast of Bataan at Anyason Point, Quinauan Point and Longoskawayan Point. Initially opposed only by headquarters and service units, the landings were counterattacked by elements of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry and the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in what was called "the battle of the points." In three weeks of fierce fighting, the points were cleared of the Japanese.

The new defense line along the Orion-Bagac position had been established on 25 January. Initially, the three infantry regiments of the Philippine Division were assigned defensive sectors but were pulled out of the line to serve as the reserve for

counterattacking. The Japanese attacked again starting on 27 January, establishing a salient in the western sector. Counterattacks contained the Japanese salients which were then cut off to form "the pockets." On 2 February, units of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry supported by tanks attacked to reduce "the pockets."

On the following day, Lieutenant Willibald C. Bianchi volunteered to accompany a platoon supporting some tanks sent out to destroy machinegun positions. Leading part of the platoon forward, he was wounded in the hand. Refusing to stop for first aid, Bianchi continued forward firing his pistol. He destroyed one machinegun with grenades. Though struck in the chest by two more bullets, he clambered on top of one of the tanks and fired its machinegun into the Japanese position until the impact of a third bullet fired from close range knocked him off the tank. He survived these wounds and was awarded the Medal of Honor.

The counterattacks wiped out the pockets and restored the Fil-American line. With their attack stalled all along the line and the pockets eliminated, the Japanese were forced to suspend their offensive operations on 8 February. Elsewhere in the Pacific, the Japanese juggernaut was surging forward but on Bataan, it was stymied. Morale was high on the American side because this was the first repulse of the Japanese since the war began. The battle for Bataan settled down to a siege. But could relief arrive in time?

The attack on Pearl Harbor had knocked over one of the pillars for the defense of the Philippines. The American fleet which was supposed to steam to their relief had been crippled at Pearl Harbor. Japanese control of the seas prevented supplies from reaching the beleaguered defenders. A few submarines made it in with supplies and evacuated some of the nurses.

They called themselves the "battling bastards of Bataan, with no mammy, no pappy and no Uncle Sam." Food supplies dwindled and with malnutrition came more debilitating disease on top of the malaria. The Cavalry's horses and later the pack mules were slaughtered and eaten to stretch the food supply. Rations provided only about 1,000 calories per day. Physical exhaustion set in after two months of reduced rations.

The defenders nevertheless prepared for the resumption of the Japanese attack. Entrenchments were improved and training continued. The Headquarters of the Philippine Division was assigned a defensive sector controlling several Philippine Army units. The 31<sup>st</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments were detached and assigned as reserves for counterattacks. The 14<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (PS) was taken off construction work and assigned to the counterattack forces as infantry. The 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was also assigned a counter attack role.

With complete control of the sea and air, the Japanese were able to replenish their forces besieging Bataan. Fresh infantry units were brought in along with heavy artillery and twin-engine bombers. Some 241 pieces of artillery were available to the Japanese

for the final offensive. During this time, the Japanese kept up the pressure. They conducted artillery bombardments and air strikes. They conducted patrol actions, raids and limited objective attacks along the defensive lines.

On 3 April 1942, Good Friday, the Japanese followed a devastating air and artillery bombardment with a coordinated tank and infantry ground attack against the center of the Orion-Bagac line and achieved a breakthrough near Mount Samat on 5 April. Counterattacks against the penetration by the 45<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry and by the Engineers failed to contain the Japanese advance. A new line was established along the San Vicente River. At dawn on 7 April, a heavy artillery bombardment of these positions was followed by a tank and infantry attack. The horseless 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was committed to cover the withdrawal of these battered and exhausted forces behind the Mamala River. That night, a further withdrawal to the Alangan River was begun.

Continued Japanese attacks and aerial bombardment pushed the defenders off this position. About 1,300 survivors of Philippine Division units formed a final defensive line along the Lamao River. By 9 April, organized resistance was no longer possible. The American commander on Bataan surrendered to avoid the useless slaughter of his surviving soldiers. A few units were able to escape to join the defenders of the island fortress of Corregidor in Manila Bay where resistance was continued.

For the 75,000 surviving Fil-American defenders of Bataan, the battle was over but their ordeal was just beginning. In their exhausted, malnourished condition, they were marched 65 miles to Prisoner of War camps. The Japanese had made no provision for food or water. No medical care was provided. Along the way, their captors brutalized the helpless prisoners, beating, bayoneting and murdering them. More than ten thousand men died during this, the infamous Bataan Death March.

The Japanese next turned their full attention to Corregidor. Aerial bombardment of the harbor defenses on Corregidor and the other islands had begun on 29 December and artillery bombardment from positions in Cavite had begun on 5 February. With Bataan in Japanese hands, a massive artillery bombardment utilizing more than 100 guns was begun on 9 April. This bombardment pulverized "the Rock," gradually knocking out the batteries and defenses. Defenders estimated that 16,000 shell hit the island on 4 May. On the night of 5 May, the Japanese made a successful amphibious landing on the eastern end of Corregidor supported by tanks.

On 6 May, with no further possibility of holding out, General Wainwright decided to surrender his forces. The Japanese refused his surrender unless he also surrendered all of the remaining forces in the Philippines. If he refused, the attack on Corregidor would continue until the 11,000 defenders were wiped out. To prevent the slaughter of his troops, including the thousands of helpless sick and wounded, Wainwright agreed to arrange the surrender. He remarked that he then knew how General Lee had felt at Appomatox when he had to surrender to Grant. About 1,200 Philippine Scouts were in the garrison of Corregidor.

The last combat action by the Philippine Scouts occurred on 7 May on Mindanao by Companies C and E of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry before they were ordered to surrender. The Philippines had fallen. What was expected by the Japanese to be a quick victory turned into a tough fight which lasted five months, thanks largely to the skill and valor of the Philippine Scouts. Each of the Scout units earned three Presidential Unit Citations and three Scouts were awarded the Medal of Honor. Typical of the valor of the Scout units is the record of the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry whose members were awarded twenty-one Distinguished Service Crosses and sixty-eight Silver Stars during their brief combat service.

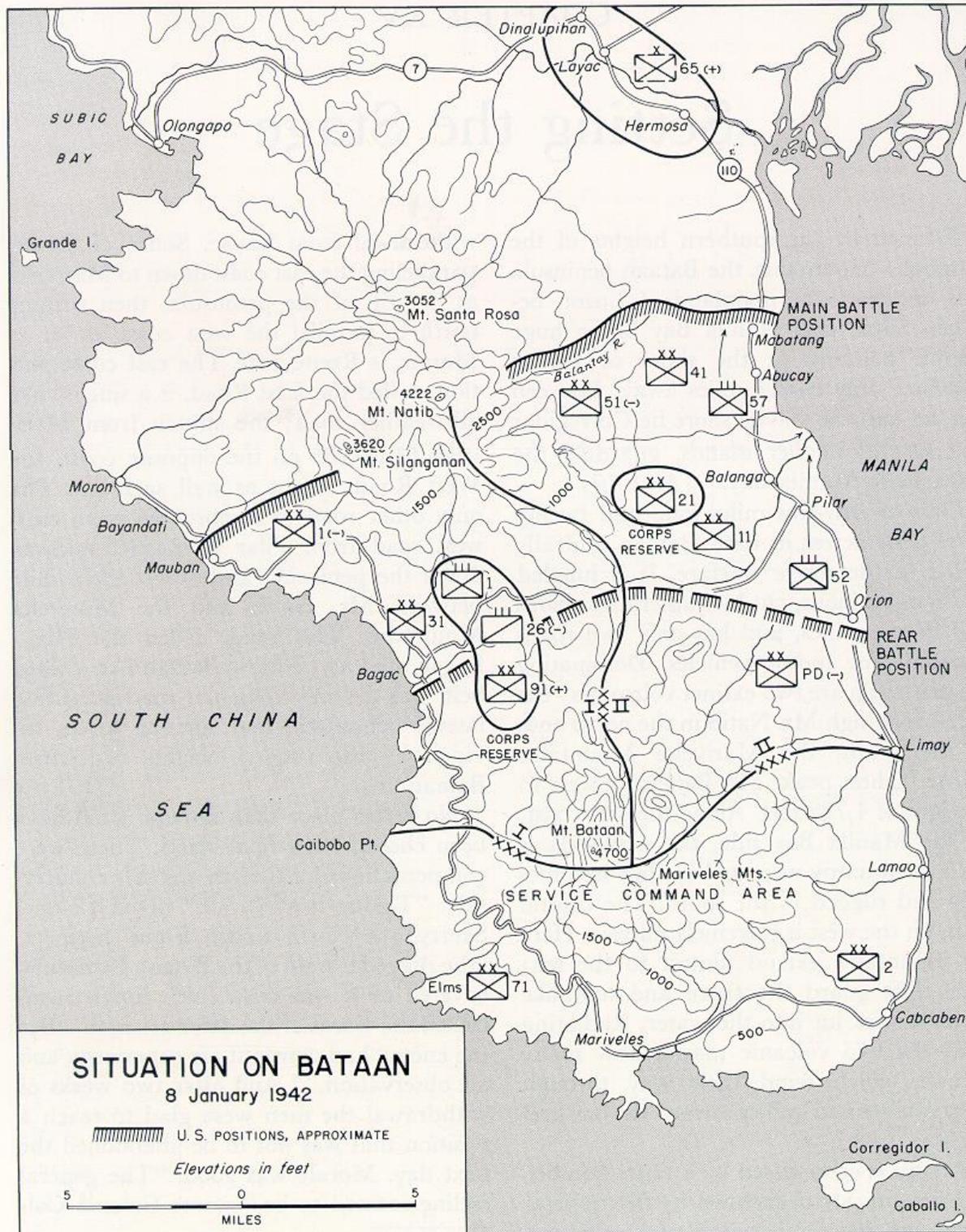
The "battling bastards" paid the last full measure of devotion for their country's unpreparedness for war. It was the darkest hour for Americans and Filipinos. But on the horizon there was a glimmer of hope. In the Coral Sea, another one of those places like Bataan and Corregidor that few Americans had ever heard of before 1941, planes from American aircraft carriers turned back the Japanese invasion fleet heading for New Guinea on 8 May 1942. It was a small victory but it was a start on the road back to the Philippines. Two and a half years of hard fighting lay ahead before General MacArthur would keep his promise to return.



Lt. John Olson, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) during maneuvers, 1941



Lt George Moore and Company I, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS) near Manila, 1941



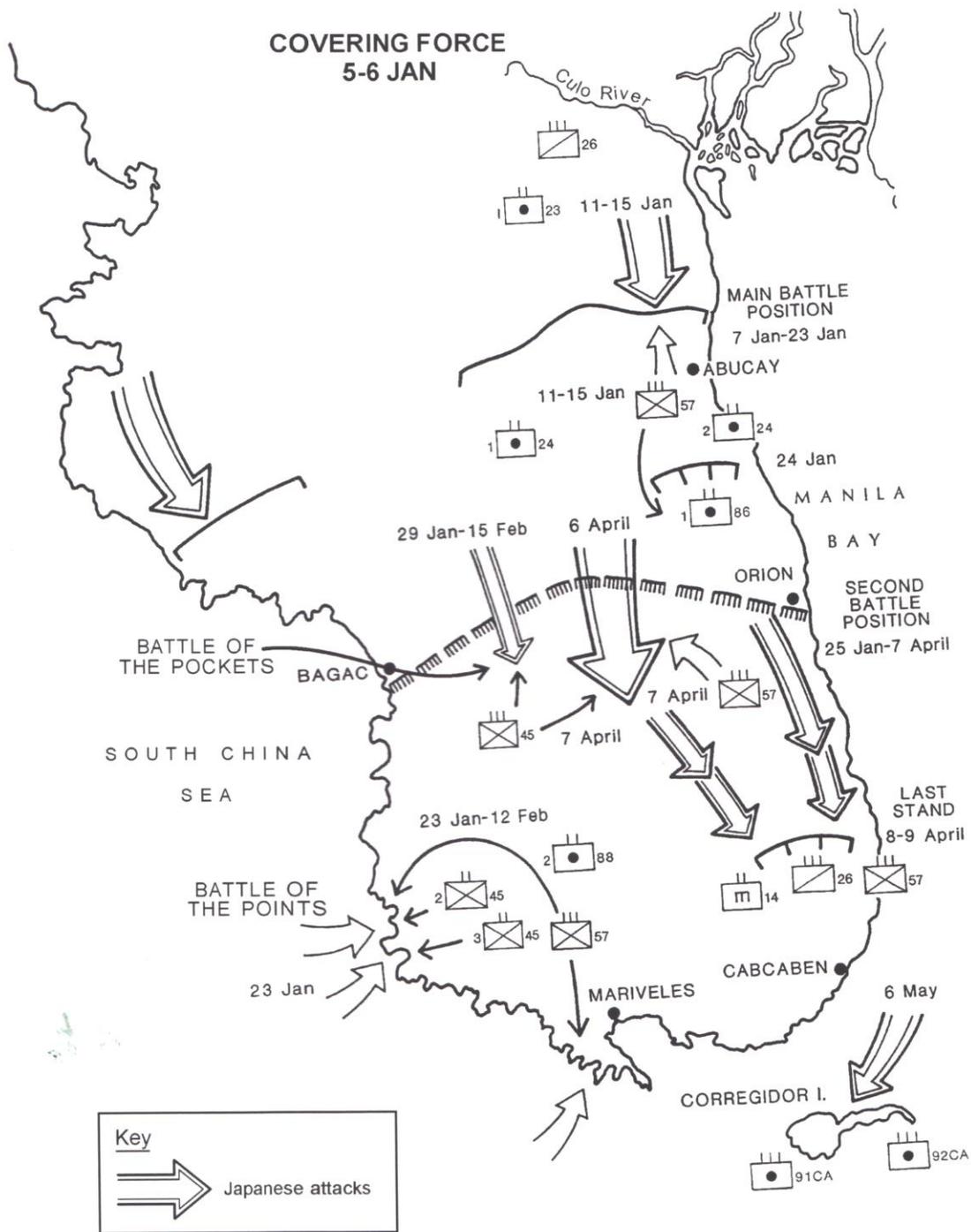


*Barbed wire entanglement on Bataan*



*Unit of the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) passes M-3 light tank as it moves into Pozorrubio during the withdrawal in December 1941*

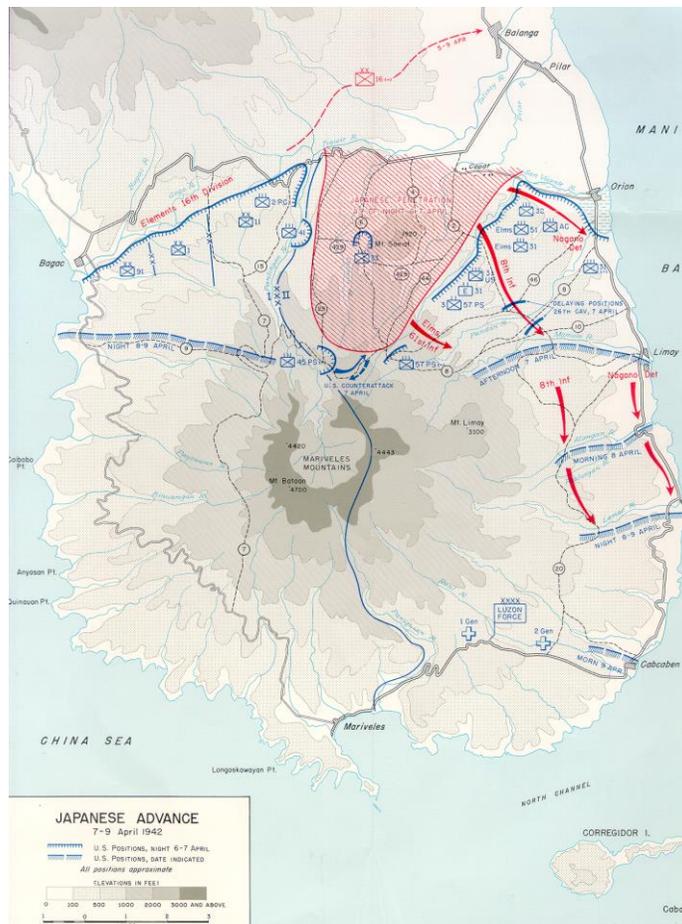
*The*



*The Campaign on Bataan. January - May 1942*



*Philippine Scouts on Bataan with war trophies*



*Final Japanese advance on Bataan, 7-9 April 1942*



Captured American troops on Bataan before the 65 mile Death March to Camp O'Donnell.



*Bombed out disappearing gun position on Corregidor*

## The Postwar Scouts

In October 1944, the United States Army returned to the Philippines in force. Surviving Philippine Scouts reported in for duty with the liberating forces. About half of the original Scouts who had been in service in 1941 were still alive. Congress approved the enlistment of 50,000 new Scouts as part of the occupation forces for Japan. A new division, the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was activated in 1946 and would wear the shoulder sleeve insignia of the old Philippine Division. The Philippine Division had originally been numbered the 12<sup>th</sup>.

As the Philippines were granted independence in 1946, President Truman decided to disband the new Scout units because he felt that the Republic of the Philippines should not furnish troops for the US Army and because the Scout units were no longer required for occupation duty in Japan. The 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was inactivated in 1947 and the New Scouts were discharged. Members of the pre-war Philippine Scouts were allowed to enlist in the Regular Army and apply for American citizenship. With that, the Philippine Scouts passed into history. They left behind a tradition of faithful service and a heritage of valor.



*Company L, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the new Philippine Scouts at Camp O'Donnell*



*The Philippine Division turns Corregidor over to the Republic of the Philippines, 1947*

## **The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society**

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society was formed on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1989 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas to preserve the history, heritage and legacy of the Philippine Scouts. Membership is open to all former Scouts, their families, and anyone interested in preserving the history of the Philippine Scouts. Fort Sam Houston's connection with the Scouts dates from 1917 when the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, one of the original Philippine Scout regiments, was organized at the post in 1917. After the Second World War, General Jonathan M. Wainwright, who had commanded the Philippine Division served at Fort Sam Houston as Commanding General of the Fourth Army. Quite a few others who had served on Bataan and Corregidor in 1941-42 also returned to Fort Sam Houston. The Fort Sam Houston Museum has been designated as a repository for materials related to the history of the Philippine Scouts. The Society and the Museum actively seek additional materials with which to depict the history of the Philippine Scouts.

## The Heritage of Valor



During the brief history of the Philippine Scouts, five of its members were awarded the Medal of Honor.



### WILLIBALD C. BIANCHI

- Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th Infantry (PS)
- Place and date: Near Bagac, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands, 3 February 1942

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on 3 February 1942, near Bagac, Province of Bataan, Philippine Islands. When the rifle platoon of another company was ordered to wipe out 2 strong enemy machinegun nests, 1st Lt. Bianchi voluntarily and of his own initiative, advanced with the platoon leading part of the men. When wounded early in the action by 2 bullets through the left hand, he did not stop for first aid but discarded his rifle and began firing a pistol. He located a machinegun nest and personally

silenced it with grenades. When wounded the second time by 2 machinegun bullets through the chest muscles, 1st Lt. Bianchi climbed to the top of an American tank, manned its anti-aircraft machinegun, and fired into strongly held enemy position until knocked completely off the tank by a third severe wound.



JOSE CALUGAS

- Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Battery B, 88th Field Artillery (PS)
- Place and date: At Culis, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands, 16 January 1942

Citation: The action for which the award was made took place near Culis, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands, on 16 January 1942. A battery gun position was bombed and shelled by the enemy until 1 gun was put out of commission

and all the cannoneers were killed or wounded. Sgt. Calugas, a mess sergeant of another battery, voluntarily and without orders ran 1,000 yards across the shell-swept area to the gun position. There he organized a volunteer squad which placed the gun back in commission and fired effectively against the enemy, although the position remained under constant and heavy Japanese artillery fire.



MOSHER, LOUIS C.

- Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, Philippine Scouts
- Place and date: At Gagsak Mountain, Jolo, Philippine Islands, 11 June 1913

Citation: Voluntarily entered a cleared space within about 20 yards of the Moro trenches under a furious fire from them and carried a wounded soldier of his company to safety at the risk of his own life.



NININGER, ALEXANDER R., JR.

- Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 57th Infantry (PS)
- Place and date: Near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands, 12 January 1942

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and

beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands, on 12 January 1942. This officer, though assigned to another company not then engaged in combat, voluntarily attached himself to Company K, same regiment, while that unit was being attacked by enemy force superior in firepower. Enemy snipers in trees and foxholes had stopped a counterattack to regain part of position. In hand-to-hand fighting which followed, 2d Lt. Nininger repeatedly forced his way to and into the hostile position. Though exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and handgrenades and succeeded in destroying several enemy groups in foxholes and enemy snipers. Although wounded 3 times, he continued his attacks until he was killed after pushing alone far within the enemy position. When his body was found after recapture of the position, 1 enemy officer and 2 enemy soldiers lay dead around him.



NISPEROS, JOSE B.

- Rank and organization: Private, 34th Company, Philippine Scouts
- Place and date: At Lapurap, Basilan, Philippine Islands, 24 September 1911

Citation: Having been badly wounded (his left arm was broken and lacerated and he had received several spear wounds in the body so that he could not stand) continued to fire his rifle with one hand until the enemy was repulsed, thereby aiding materially in preventing the annihilation of his

party and the mutilation of their bodies.

## Did you know that...

Army Chief of Staff, General Harold K. Johnson (1964-68) served as an officer in the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)?

Jose Nisperos, 34<sup>th</sup> Company, Philippine Scouts was the first Asian-Pacific American to be awarded the Medal of Honor?

The sons of Frederick Funston and Emilio Aguinaldo were classmates at the US Military Academy?

General Ralph E. Haines, former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and last commanding general of the Continental Army Command, served in the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS)?

President Dwight D. Eisenhower (then Second Lieutenant) served in the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at Fort Sam Houston in 1917?

Vicente Lim, first Filipino graduate of the US Military Academy served in the Philippine Scouts and commanded the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Philippine Army?

Mateo Capinpin and Fidel Segundo, both Philippine Scout Officers, commanded divisions in the Philippine Army (Capinpin the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and Segundo the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division)?

There is a detailed history of Philippine Scout insignia by Robert Capistrano on the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society web page, <http://www.philippine-scouts.org/the-scouts/insignia-memorabilia/insignia-of-the-philippine-scouts.html> ?

Author Pauline Newton is working on publishing the POW diary of Roy L. Bodine which recounts the travails on the Hellship, Oryoku Maru.

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society dedicated two plaques on the wall at the Memorial Courtyard at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg Texas in 2003.