



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

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DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

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MARRIOTT NEAR HOBBY AIRPORT**

The conclusion of the hunt for Taizo Sakai

By Steve Lopardo

*Son of 1st Lt. Fiorenzo V. Lopardo,
How Co. 3rd Bn, 28th Marines*

Sixty-four years after Sgt. Maj. Taizo Sakai surrendered himself and two cherished family photos to United States Marines during the battle of Iwo Jima, the photos were returned to Sakai's family following a 10-year search.

'Be Wise, Oh My Pain'

As I reported in my November 2006 article in *The Spearhead*, Sakai was one of the most important and intriguing POWs captured in the Pacific Theater. Highly educated, Sakai spoke fluent French and, before the war, dreamed of going to Paris and becoming a painter. Instead, he was drafted into the Japanese army and became the senior communications and code clerk for Gen. Tadamich Kuribayashi on Iwo Jima.

Convinced that Japan could not win the war, Sakai surrendered to platoon leader 2nd Lt. R.E. "Candy" Johnson of How Co, 3d Bn. 28th Marines, at dawn on March 19, 1945. He was taken to my father, 1st Lt. Fiorenzo V. Lopardo, acting company commander of How Company, who had studied French at Notre Dame before the war. Dad interrogated Sakai in French



This photograph of Sgt. Maj. Taizo Sakai (left), his wife, Sumiko (right) and their 4-year-old niece Emiko was given to 1st Lt. Fiorenzo Lopardo for safekeeping before Sakai was sent to the U.S.

for nearly three hours in a foxhole. He was then sent to Regimental Headquarters and interrogated by the intelligence officers of the 28th Marines, 1st Lt. Richard White and 1st Lt. John McLean.

It was immediately obvious that Sakai knew many of the Japanese communication codes, could recite the recent dispatches between Tokyo and Iwo, and had current information about Okinawa, the American's

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***Wanted: Members to host
2011 and 2012 reunions. Contact
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Our own stimulus package

For the benefit of those of you who are unhappy with the fact that you seem to have no say in the way your tax money is being thrown away, be aware that certain individuals in your Association are employing the same tactics to drain your treasury. It has taken years and much hard work to build up these funds.

While many issues were being questioned and supposedly under legal advisement, the president has proceeded and entered into a major contract without approval or even consulting the trustees.

I will, therefore, not approve the disbursal of any funds from our Treasury, except for the necessary day-to-day money needed to operate our Association, until these matters are resolved at the next business meeting in Houston. This order has been in effect since Sept. 9, 2008. At that time, it came to light that in order to honor the pledges made at the D.C. business meeting, we would have to prematurely cash a bond and pay a \$20,000 penalty.

Since this same bond will mature in August of this year, there is no doubt at that time that pressure will be applied to honor those past commitments. With the upcoming reunion in Houston, following a month later, I see no reason to disburse very large sums from the treasury without discussion and approval of the membership present at that time.

While the "BAR on the Beach" monument is the current subject of contention, there are others to be resolved at the Houston reunion:

1. The money that was to be donated to the Young Marines Organization should be seriously reconsidered. The Marine Corps itself has drastically curtailed support for that group.

2. The money that was to be given to the Waterhouse Museum must also be reconsidered since that facility closed its doors to the public as of Dec. 31, 2008. If in fact a private group was to purchase the Museum, we cannot donate Association money to that sort of operation.

On other subjects: For the benefit of those who have been unable to attend Business Meetings, I submit the following information. There have been rumors to the effect that we would disband the 5th Marine Division Association in the near future. To date the possibility of such action has been overwhelmingly rejected. A Reunion is in the planning for 2010 in Biloxi, MS.

As to the subject of merging the 5th Marine

Continued on page 12

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



In the *Winter Spearhead*, I reopened the controversy about the flag raisings on Mt. Suribachi and apparently made some mistakes. I should have known better and take full responsibility for any errors.

Col. David Elliott Severance, USMC (Ret.), wrote a response to my column (see page 4) in which he says my errors are “inexcusable and completely without facts.” While I agree that they are inexcusable, I don’t agree that they are “completely without facts.”

The column was based on Dustin Spence’s October 2006 *Leatherneck* article, previously published pieces on the subject and the recent naming of a street in Crawfordsville, Ind., after Phil Ward. Since I wasn’t there that morning of 23 February 1945 and all I have to go on is what people who were there have said and what has been published, I took the article in *Leatherneck* as the definitive word. That’s obviously not the case.

Then Capt. Severance was the commanding officer of E/2/28 and sent Lt. Harold “George” Schrier up Mt. Suribachi with a 40-man patrol to raise the flag. The colonel says in his rebuttal that I was “unduly influenced by Dustin Spence’s article in” *Leatherneck*.

Perhaps I was. I did falsely assume that John “Doc” Bradley was there because there is a photo in which the flag appears to be being raised and a corpsman with two medical pouches under his arm identified as Bradley is in the picture. But that’s not the actual flag raising.

After Col. Severance told me Bradley was not present and enclosed a transcript of his only interview on the subject where he told Arnold Shapiro that he “didn’t see the first flag raising,” I e-mailed Shapiro. He replied, “John Bradley did not see the first flag go up. He was not anywhere in the area at that time. He was only present for the second flag raising — and barely. He had nothing to do with the first flag raising.”

So I’ll stand corrected on that matter, although it’s pretty obvious that Bradley was in the area, based on facial resemblances, the medical pouches and a bracelet on his right wrist. But if he has said he wasn’t there when the first flag went up, that’s good enough.

And I won’t quibble about the other error I made by saying “seven Marines” raised the flag. There are several photos of the first flag flying and different

people are around the flagpole in different photos. Ward is obviously present in some of the photos. Col. Severance says Ward never mentioned to him that he was one of the flag raisers.

The colonel also says Ray Jacobs never mentioned he was one of the flag raisers, only that he was the radioman. I didn’t say he was one of the flag raisers, only that he was the radioman. Which he seems to be, based on the photographic evidence and what he said.

Col. Severance says the Marine Corps has confirmed that “Schrier, Thomas, Hansen, Lindbergh, Michels and Charlo (Fox Company)” were the flag raisers. I did mention seven flag raisers, but I didn’t include Charlo who wasn’t mentioned in the *Leatherneck* piece. Ward and Bradley made the count seven.

While there is no photo of the actual first flag raising because the photographer, Sgt. Lou Lowery, was apparently loading his camera, it’s pretty obvious that both Bradley (with the medical pouches) and Ward (with the ring on his hand) are near the flag pole at various times. And Jacobs seems to be there with a radio, and the colonel writes that Jacobs told him that his CO had “released him to go on the patrol.”

So that’s the best I can do. I regret my errors and hope this corrects them, although I know the controversy will go on for years. Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal was reported to have said that the raising of the flag on Mt. Suribachi “guaranteed a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.” The controversy will undoubtedly continue for much of that 500 years.

I was recently reminded of how people see things differently through the years by a VFW magazine article on how “The Good War” has been portrayed in popular culture since the end of World War II. Writer John Bodnar mentioned Kurt Vonnegut’s book *Slaughterhouse-Five*, based on the author’s experience after being taken prisoner by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and surviving the four days and nights of the Allied firebombing of Dresden.

Vonnegut’s fictional character, Billy Pilgrim, is also a veteran of the war who survived the firebombing as a POW. In the book and as Bodnar wrote, “Direct exposure to the horrors of warfare, however, did not lead to total recall. On the contrary, both author and character struggled throughout their postwar lives to remember exactly what they had been through.”

Pilgrim was only able to say, “All this happened more or less.” Which is the point of Vonnegut’s book, “that coherent remembrances of war were not possible.”

Memorable piece on Col. John Ripley

That was a memorable piece on Col. John Ripley [Winter 2008-09]. It goes into my archives. You know we don't see many heroes, but he was mine, absolutely. And he was always so ready and helpful, especially to me as a writer.

I was also glad to see the play given the war dog handlers. Handlers will be very appreciative.

You have a great newsletter.

– Cyril J. “Cy” O’Brien, Combat Correspondent
Silver Springs, Md.
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Material wanted for MCRD, San Diego (1942-45) recruit training project

I have written a series of lectures, titled, “Stepping Stones in the Pacific,” that I give wherever I am asked. The first lecture was about Pearl Harbor: “Awakening the Sleeping Giant; Part One: The View from Japan.” A table of contents follows:

Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Pearl Harbor Part I
Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Pearl Harbor Part II
Flight from “Shangri-La”: The Doolittle Raid
Six Minutes to Victory: The Battle of Midway
The “Canal”: Battle for Guadalcanal
Bloody “Betio” (Bay-Shio): Tarawa
The Beginning of the End: Saipan/Tinian
Sulfur Island: Iwo Jima
The Last Battle: Okinawa
The End: Japan Part I
The End: Japan Part II

At the present time, I am working on a new project, “MCRD in San Diego during the period of 1942-45, The Training of Recruits.” For the project, I am interested in stores, books, pictures, manuals, old copies of the *Chevron*, etc. If anyone has any material, I would be happy to pay postage and only borrow it for a few days and then return it. I would appreciate your material.

– Bud Nielsen
Redding, Calif.
budnielsen@hotmail.com

Editor’s Note: *Bud is a member of the Redding, Calif., Marine Corps League Detachment #1082. He trained at Camp Tarawa with the 2nd Marine Division and served with 2nd JASCO on Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa.*

Information sought on special detail in Hawaii following duty tour on Iwo Jima

Upon returning to Hawaii for R&R and further training our next assignment, a beautiful beach was commandeered near Kona where various units training at Camp Tarawa were trucked down for a day at the beach on a rotating basis.

I was among the five selected to be lifeguards for two or three months detached duty. I have lost track of the others who served this great duty and would like to hear from them and receive a copy of any photos they might still have.

I have since returned to Hawaii for a visit and found that the Mona Loa Hotel is now located on the beach near where our small detachment resided in an old YMCA building.

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Flag-raising column makes errors, clouds controversy

I have finished reading your article in the recent newsletter pertaining to the first flag raised on Suribachi and have concluded that you were unduly influenced by Dustin Spence’s article in the October 2006 *Leatherneck* and some Web site entries concerning Ray Jacobs. The most important fact is that the Marine Corps many years ago confirmed that the six Marines who raised the first flag were Schrier, Thomas, Hansen, Lindberg, Michels and Charlo (Fox Company). This identification originated with the three survivors of the six participants. You have mentioned “seven” in that action and listed eight as “flag raisers.”

Sgt. Lou Lowery: Lou’s photographs of the first flag did not have a picture of the six Marines as they were raising the flag since he was reloading film into his camera at the time. There followed a series of “posed” photos, the first one was where he asked Jim Michels, a verified flag raiser, to move out and kneel with his carbine posing as a defender of the flag site. Thereafter he shot a series of photos with various persons near or holding up the flagpole. One photo actually has nine people milling around or holding onto the pole. None

of his pictures show guy wires holding up the pole ... they were added later.

Dustin Spence: Spence came to my home some time in 2002 and showed me his work. I complimented him on his detective work but advised him that his conclusion was faulted . . . neither John Bradley nor Phil Ward had helped raise the first flag. A Marine general officer, a mutual friend of Col. Walt Ford and Spence, asked Ford to publish Spence's story in the *Leatherneck*. By direct inference, Spence has dismissed Charlo as one who helped raise the first flag, and replaced him with Phil Ward. He has also implied that John Bradley also helped raise the first Suribachi flag.

John Bradley: It is not difficult to eliminate John Bradley from the list of first flag raisers ... in a 1985 interview (with Arnold Shapiro for his documentary, *Return to Iwo Jima*) he denied he had even seen the first flag go up. I have a DVD with the voice of Bradley stating he did not see the flag go up. Any who disallow this evidence would be saying Bradley lied.

Phil Ward: Spence has concluded Ward was a flag raiser because he was shown so frequently in Lowery's photos. Ward attended five or six company gatherings during the period 1970 to 2003 and never mentioned he participated in the flag raising. Ward had a stroke in December 2000, several years before Spence interviewed him. I do not know what Ward told Spence then, but when he joined us in San Diego for dinner on 19 August 2003, he made no mention of having been a flag raiser. Actually, in February 1999, Phil wrote a blistering letter to the commander of the Wisconsin VFW. The VFW newsletter had published a story in which they cited Chuck Lindberg as being the "sole survivor" of the Schrier patrol. Ward blamed Lindberg for the newsletter content, but Lindberg had not been interviewed for the article. Ward was livid, and in no uncertain words let the VFW know that he was a "patrol survivor" and there were others. ... He made no mention that he was a flag raiser survivor. It now seems his widow might have proceeded with Spence's suggestion and informed her city council that Ward helped raise the first flag.

Ray Jacobs: Ray Jacobs' claim to have been the radioman with Lt. Schrier has been questioned by me for some time, primarily because Jacobs carried the only Fox Company radio with which his company commander could contact both the battalion and regimental commanders. On 23 February, all units in

the 28th Marines were poised to attack up the volcano to either extract the Schrier patrol or reinforce it were it to encounter the enemy in strength. With Jacobs attached to the patrol, Capt. Art Naylor would have been without the use of the vital SCR300 radio. Jacobs, for years, failed to mention if his company commander had sanctioned his leaving the company. Capt. Naylor died in 1995. A forensic photographer has compared Jacobs' photo with one of the same WWII age and declared it was Jacobs on the mountain. However, in the middle of 2002 Jacobs was involved with a Ray Fornof of Hilo, Hawaii. Fornof was raising funds to erect an Iwo Jima Memorial on the island of Hawaii. To raise funds he sold gold and silver medallions that were minted with Jacobs listed as one of the first flag raisers.

I first met Jacobs at an Iwo seminar in McLean, Va., in February 2005 when he introduced himself and mentioned my past reluctance to accept him as the radioman with the Schrier patrol. I told him I was not concerned about the identity of the radioman, but was upset about his dealings with Ray Fornof in Hawaii and his claim to have been a flag raiser. Jacobs said he had not helped raise the first flag and had not given Fornof license to use his name. He also told me that Capt. Naylor had released him to join the patrol.

Lt. J.K. Wells: Lt. Wells was wounded and evacuated on 21 February 1945. He returned ashore on 26 February, despite his severely wounded buttock, and was helped up to the volcano by Pfc. Goode and Cpl. Chuck Lindberg. He remained there until all 28th Marines vacated the summit of Suribachi on the morning of 28 February. Wells' wounds were infected, and he turned himself in to a field hospital. From there, he was air-evacuated on 16 March. I would conclude the only thing Wells knows about the first flag raising is what he has read.

– Col. David Elliott Severance USMC (Ret.)
La Jolla, Calif.

Editor's Note: *In separate correspondence, Col. Severance says the material in the column "is inexcusable and almost certainly without facts" . . . and that we might be "reluctant to publish" his letter, but "the errors should be ironed out." No argument with publishing the comments or that the errors should be ironed out. Those issues are addressed in the editor's column on page 3.*

next target, and he was willing to tell all he knew to bring the war to a speedy end. He was promptly flown from Iwo to Pearl Harbor, and then to the interrogation center at Fort Tracy near San Francisco, and finally to the super-secret intelligence center at Fort Hunt outside Washington, D.C.

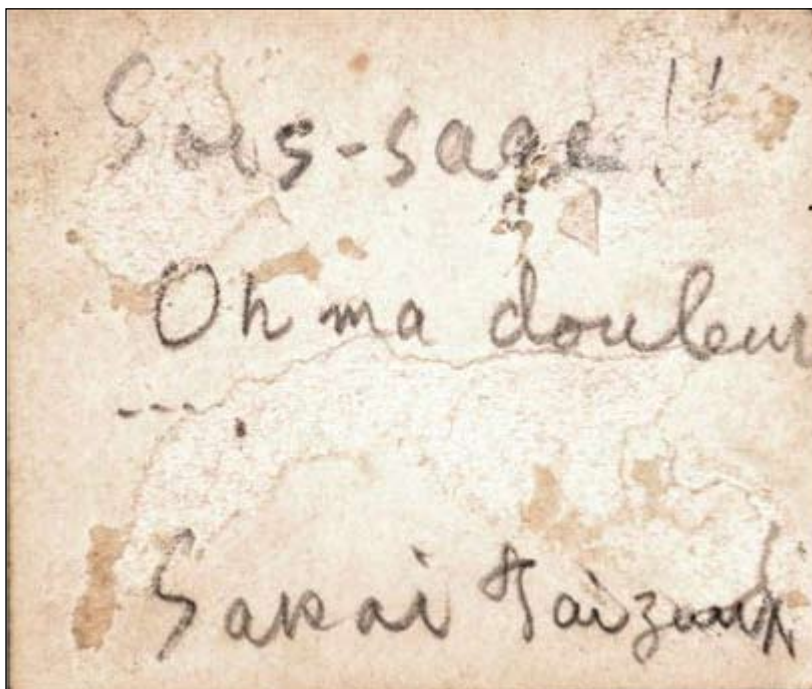
Before sending him away, Dad asked Sakai what he would do after the war. He replied, "I can never go back. I am dead. Because I surrendered, I am officially dead." Sakai was naked, except for a loincloth where he had hidden two wallet-sized family photographs. He gave them to Dad, saying, "I know they will take these from me, so I want you to have them since we have become friends speaking French." Sakai asked Dad, to safeguard his photographs, and if it were ever possible, to return them to him or his family.

One photo was of Sakai's wife, Sumiko. The other photo showed Sakai, Sumiko and their 4-year-old niece, Emiko. On the back of that photo, Sakai wrote in French, "*Sois-sage!!*" which means, "Be wise!!" He also wrote, "*Oh ma douleur,*" which means, "Oh my pain," because he thought he could never return to Japan or his family.

The Search

After Sakai was sent away, Dad never saw him again. Over the years, Dad frequently told my sister, Lisa, and me of his desire to return the photos to Sakai or his family. We grew up wondering what became of Sakai after the war. About five years before his death in 2004, Dad asked me to begin a search for Sakai or his family and return the two photographs. Thus, began *The Hunt for Taizo Sakai*.

The intelligence learned from Sakai had been well documented in many books, and there were many



The back of one of the photos belonging to Taizo Sakai shows where he wrote in French, "Be wise!! Oh my pain."

intriguing leads to pursue. The original Iwo Jima interrogator, Richard White still practices law in Seattle, and put me in touch with the other original interrogator, John McLean. They both remembered Sakai well.

I unsuccessfully sought information from the Japanese Embassy and the Marine Corps. I located and interviewed many of the survivors of H/3/28, including the family of Candy Johnson, who had

recorded an audio tape in 1986 describing Sakai's surrender. I attended the 60th anniversary and the Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima in 2005 and distributed fliers to the Japanese delegation. I published three articles and put notices in Japanese newspapers. I interviewed scholars and historians, one of whom, Ulrich Strauss, confirmed that Sakai was one of the few Japanese POWs who had been interrogated at Fort Hunt, which was reserved primarily for high-profile German POWs such as generals, scientists and U-boat commanders.

In 2007, the National Park Service announced that the Fort Hunt records would be made available to the public for the first time. In 2008, I flew to Washington and met with the chief ranger of the National Park Service, Vincent Santucci, who gave me a tour of the remains of Fort Hunt and brought me to the National Archives to search for Sakai's records. There I was able to read and copy many of Sakai's interrogation reports, yet nothing I found disclosed his fate or whereabouts after the war.

I sent an investigator to Sakai's old home address in Tokyo, which he disclosed in an interrogation report, only to discover it had been obliterated by the B-29 bombings shortly after Iwo Jima. Maj. Gen. Fred Haynes, a friend and fellow officer with my dad in the 28th Marines, used his considerable influence and

contacts to search for Sakai, including direct inquiries to the Japanese ambassador and other government officials. Gen. Haynes is a member of a group of 24 American generals and admirals who met privately with presidential candidates Barrack Obama and John McCain, and testified before Congress, describing the Sakai story in support of humane treatment of prisoners of war.

I also contacted Rosa Ogawa, head of the Iwo Jima Society of Japan, who told me the official Japanese war records did not show a Taizo Sakai on Iwo Jima. This, of course, complicated my search with the implication that “Sakai” might be an alias. Massive Internet searches yielded no results. It seemed clear that after 60 years, I was looking for a needle in a haystack.

Help From Japan

When all hope appeared lost, I got a break. In March 2006, I was helicopter skiing in British Columbia and met 12 wonderful Japanese from Tokyo, including Shinsuke Shiozawa, a retired schoolteacher. Although he did not speak English, Shinsuke survived the bombing of Tokyo as a child and adopted *The Hunt for Taizo Sakai* as his personal quest. He published a series of newspaper advertisements in Japanese newspapers displaying the photographs and seeking information. He contacted the Japanese Ministry of Health, charged with locating missing or displaced Japanese families.

While the newspaper advertisements brought no leads, they did catch the attention of Tatsuya Kishimoto, a producer of a film company, Shizuoka Broadcasting System (SBS), a Japanese equivalent to “60 Minutes.” Tatsuya decided to do a “reality TV” series focusing on the search for Sakai and his family. Tatsuya’s bosses, however, were initially reluctant to underwrite such a quest until and unless Sakai was actually located. Tatsuya, however, stuck his neck out and went to bat for the film. He convinced SBS to proceed with the film regardless of whether Sakai or his family were located.

Part one of *The Hunt for Taizo Sakai* aired on Japanese national television in December 2007, followed by part two in March 2008. They showed the history of the Battle of Iwo Jima, my dad’s acceptance of the photographs from Taizo, my contact with Shinsuke skiing in Canada, Shinsuke’s journey to Taizo’s old neighborhood in Tokyo, his interviews of Japanese Iwo veterans and Rosa Ogawa, and inquiries with Japanese officials.

The end of both films requested any information or assistance in finding Taizo or his family. The shows were very well received in Japan, but brought no results. Tatsuya, ever persistent, continued to hound the Ministry of Health. Initially they were not helpful, stating that too much time had passed, and their mission was to find missing persons sought by Japanese families, not Americans. On Aug. 18, 2008, Tatsuya aired part three. Like the prior films in the series, it did not produce friends or family of Taizo, but it did lead to a huge breakthrough. The head of the Japanese Ministry of Health was so impressed with Tatsuya’s dedication and persistence in finding Taizo, he instructed the ministry to do whatever was necessary to find him.

Finally on Sept. 12, 2008, in a bolt out of the blue, I got an e-mail from Tatsuya: “We have found the grandson of Taizo Sakai in Yokohoma. Will you fly to Japan and personally return the photographs?” I couldn’t e-mail back fast enough to say, “Yes!” I was about to embark on an amazing adventure with Japanese “reality TV.”

I wanted to immediately learn everything about when and how Taizo returned to Japan, his reunion with Sumiko, and their life after the war. But in order to dramatize his film, Tatsuya requested I not ask any questions until I returned the photographs. Since my only goal was to follow my dad’s wishes and return photographs to their rightful owners, I was happy to comply. I was very grateful for Tatsuya’s efforts and wanted him to be successful with his films. The only detail revealed to me, and one that brought a bit of disappointment, was that both Taizo and Sumiko had passed away about 20 years ago. I would, however, have the pleasure of meeting with Sakai’s grandson and other members of the family who now lived in Yokohama, Japan.

On Nov. 30, 2008, Tatsuya and his film crew flew from Tokyo to my home in Fallbrook, near Camp Pendleton, in Southern California. They filmed me discussing the story of the photos, my sister and I at my Dad’s grave, and interviews with Iwo Jima vets, John B. Lyttle, a mortarman in my dad’s company (H/3/28), Jim Shriver, a BAR man in I/3/28, and Leo Tuck, a corpsman in the 27th Marines.

Tatsuya and his crew then flew to Seattle to interview and film Rich White, the intelligence officer

Continued on next page

who interrogated Sakai on Iwo. Next, they flew to Washington D.C., where they were escorted through the National Archives by our researcher, Dan Gross, and were allowed to film the original Sakai records. They then interviewed and filmed Gen. Fred Haynes at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Finally, they were escorted by Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci for a private tour of Fort Hunt before flying back to Japan.

The Photos Return Home

On Dec. 8, 2008, my wife, Mary, and I flew from Los Angeles to Tokyo and were greeted at the airport by the Japanese press and Shinsuke Shiozawa, the wonderful man I met while skiing in Canada. Tatsuya and his crew had arrived just one hour earlier from Washington, D.C., and filmed our arrival. Interpreters were provided by Athene Francais, the same language institute where Taizo Sakai learned French in Tokyo in the late 1930s.

Dec. 11, 2008, was the big day we had waited for all those years. Finally, we would meet Taizo's family and return the photographs. Mary and I were greeted at our hotel by an entourage consisting of Shinsuke, Tatsuya and his film crew, reporters and our interpreter, Satomi Endo. Satomi works as an English teacher through the Athene Francais and explained that Athene Francais is extremely proud of the legacy of Taizo Sakai.

We took the train from Tokyo to Yokohama, where I was filmed walking up to the fourth-floor of apartment of Taizo's oldest son, Yoichiro Sakamoto. As I will explain later, one of the revelations I would learn that day was that Taizo's real last name was Sakamoto, not Sakai.

I had often wondered how Taizo's family would react to these ghosts from their past, but we were received by big smiles from the entire clan: Yoichiro Sakamoto, first son of Taizo and Sumiko; Yogi Sakamoto, Yoichiro's son, and grandson of Taizo and Sumiko; Rumi Hamatani, first daughter of Taizo and Sumiko; Michiyo Nozaki, third daughter of Taizo and Sumiko; and Emiko Suzuki, niece of Taizo and Sumiko, the little 4-year-old who appears in one of the pictures I was returning.

We exchanged greetings, and then I gave the following little speech in Japanese, which everyone seemed to appreciate, "Sixty-three years ago, my father



Steve Lopardo (left) returns Taizo Sakai's photos to his family in Japan on Dec. 11, 2008. Niece Emiko Suzuki, who was the 4-year-old in the picture and is now 68, holds one of the photos. Also pictured here are Shinsuke Shiozawa (standing), first son Yoichiro Sakamoto, third daughter Michiyo Nozaki, and first daughter Rumi Hamatani.

accepted these photographs from Taizo Sakai and promised to safeguard them. With respect to both our ancestors, I now return them to your family." I then handed the family the two original photographs Taizo had given my father on the battlefield of Iwo Jima on March 19, 1945. It was an awesome, wonderful experience that will always be one of the highlights of my life.

I had always hoped that at least Sumiko or Emiko would still be alive, but it was a dream come true to hand the photos to Emiko. Perhaps the highlight of the exchange came when she saw herself in the photo and blurted out, “That’s me!” She then burst into tears, and pretty soon all of us had tears in our eyes.

We spent three hours getting to know each other. I told the family the complete story of Taizo entrusting the photos to my father, and they repeatedly expressed their gratitude that my family would safeguard and return the pictures, especially by personal delivery. I said that one of the reasons my father bonded with Taizo was because my dad came from a big family with 11 children, and Taizo spoke in French about his love for his family and his pain and grief (“*Oh Ma Douleur*”) that he would never be able to return to Japan and see his family. Yoichiro said that their family found out that I was looking for them when he received a letter from the Japanese Ministry of Health.

As I sat in Yoichiro’s living room, I was delighted to see separate, large, framed pictures of Taizo and Sumiko taken after the war. They hung above a Buddhist altar so that Sakamotos can memorialize and pray to the spirits of Taizo and Sumiko. On the altar were other smaller pictures of Taizo and Sumiko. In an extremely moving finale, the family asked me to take the two photos I was returning and place them in the altar. They gave me a pillow to kneel on, and I did as they requested. All of this was filmed by Tatsuya and his crew. *The Hunt For Taizo Sakai* was complete, and the photos now reside in a place of honor in the home of their rightful owners.

Afterwards, the Sakamoto family hosted a huge banquet at a Korean barbecue, which was Taizo’s favorite meal. When asked what I wanted to drink, I said I wanted whatever was Taizo’s favorite beverage. Yoshiro said, “He liked to drink everything!” So I ordered a Kirin beer because there was a can of it on the family altar to Taizo and Sumiko. There were many toasts, my favorite of which was a joint one by Yoichiro and me to our fathers.

The Story of Taizo, Sumiko and Emiko

During our reunion, I finally learned about the life of Taizo and Sumiko. The family told me Taizo grew up dreaming of going to Paris to become an artist or a painter. He believed French was the language best suited for art so he attended Athene Francais language

school in Tokyo to learn French.

After he was drafted into the army, Taizo spent several years fighting in North China. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, all of his fellow Japanese soldiers were very excited and celebrated, but not Taizo. He thought, “This is the beginning of the defeat of Japan. If Japan can’t dispose of the Chinese armies, it could never defeat the Americans.” He was the only person at the time who thought this. He said, “Oh, great. Now I’ll never get to go home to Japan.”

During the summer of 1944, Taizo did return to Japan, and his parents arranged a tea ceremony for him to meet a potential bride, a common custom at that time. The girl serving their tea was Sumiko Sakai. Taizo instantly fell in love with her and asked her to marry him only eight days later. He was 24, and she was 18. They were soon married, but only spent a few weeks together before Taizo was sent to Iwo Jima.

That summer Sumiko lived with her sister in Narimasu, Saitama Prefecture, to escape the American bombings. It was here that the two pictures were taken that Taizo gave my dad. The little girl Taizo and Sumiko are holding in one of the pictures is Emiko, the daughter of Sumiko’s sister. Although Sumiko appeared in the pictures in Western clothes, her daughter, Rumi, said Sumiko spent most of her life wearing a kimono, and Rumi actually wore one of Sumiko’s original kimonos during our reunion.

Yoichiro told us Taizo described two terrifying experiences on Iwo Jima. Once he was strafed by an American Corsair fighter plane. He said the Japanese were amazed because these planes even flew at night. Another time, Taizo was in a cave with other soldiers and was attacked by Marines with flamethrowers. They were able to survive by walling themselves off by creating a barrier made of blankets.

Taizo had great respect for Gen. Kuribayashi. He loved the man because he did not waste Japanese life with banzai chargers. Yoichiro recounted a fascinating conversation Kuribayashi had with Taizo shortly before his surrender. Kuribayashi asked Taizo, “Hey, what are you carrying on your back that is so carefully wrapped in a straw mat?” Taizo answered, “Sir, I am carrying a sword given me by the Japanese government!” To which Kuribayashi responded, “Throw away such a stupid sword! It’s total nonsense to depend on such a useless

Continued on next page

weapon in these times. That is the reason why Japan will be defeated!”

Taizo told his family that overall he thought the war was a waste and the ritual of suicide was stupid. He told Yoichiro that while shooting at the enemy in China and Iwo Jima, he would often deliberately miss. According to Taizo, so did other Japanese.

Taizo knew he was not supposed to be captured alive, and that since he had been, he believed he could never go back to Japan. This is why Taizo never disclosed his true name to the Americans. “Sakai” was

Sumiko’s maiden name, as common a name in Japanese as Smith is in English. This explains why Rosa Ogawa of the Iwo Jima Association reported that she could find no record of a “Taizo Sakai” having served on Iwo Jima.

Taizo always said that he was very well treated as a POW. Such treatment surprised both him and his family. I told the family that Gen. Haynes had briefed President-Elect Obama on this issue, and specifically on the case of Taizo Sakai (Sakamoto), and that Gen. Haynes was part of Tatsuya’s film, all of which seemed to really impress them.

Taizo told his family that he was eventually interred with other Japanese, German or Italian POWs, and they would frequently trade food. The Japanese would barter for rice and the Germans for beef. Taizo said that while he was a POW, if he ever encountered a problem, he always spoke French because it “showed respect.” Taizo was a very good cook and befriended the American guards by cooking special pancakes. Often, he would exchange these with the guards for canned food and cigarettes.

Yoichiro and Rumi said that during the war in Japan, most families believed that when their sons and husbands went off to war they would never return. They were expected to fight to the death, which is what



This photo was taken on Kitano Point at the end of the battle on March 25, 1945. Sakai was captured outside Bloody Gorge, just below where this picture was taken. Featured are, left to right, Capt. Robert Spangler, Capt. Misty Rice, Maj. Tolson Smoak, Gen. Leo Hermle, Col. Harry Liversedge, 1st Lt. Fiorenzo Lopardo, Maj. Oscar Peatross and Lt. Parker Stortz.

most of the Japanese soldiers on Iwo Jima did. Thus, Sumiko at first believed that Taizo was dead and she would never see him again. In fact, she was formally notified by the Japanese government that Taizo had been killed in action on Iwo Jima. However, Sumiko went to a fortuneteller, who told her that Taizo would survive the war. She believed this, and, therefore, was not completely surprised when he came home from America. Indeed, Taizo and all of the 4,200 Japanese POWs interred in the U.S. were sent by ship back to Japan, and he was joyfully reunited with Sumiko around February 1946. Eventually they had six children, three sons and three daughters. Taizo never returned to America, nor did he ever visit France.

Taizo said that he took on the ship back to Japan two things, a “very clever” cat he had befriended in one of the prison camps, and Lux soap. The cat had hung around the kitchen in the camp where Taizo was employed as a cook, and somehow Taizo was able to smuggle it with him onboard the ship. Taizo named him “*Chaa-bow*” (Tuxedo), because he was entirely black like a tuxedo except for white markings at the end of his paws. On the ship to Japan, Taizo decided if he had children he would name them “Yoichiro” and “Rumi. “Yoichiro” means “No. 1 boy on the sea.”

After his return to Japan, Taizo pursued his passion

for art and made hundreds of drawings and sketches. His specialty was female nudes, and the family showed me several binders of his original drawings. They were all beautiful, but the most touching was a drawing that Taizo made of Sumiko's face right after her death. She appeared very peaceful, and like the photographs Taizo gave my father, quite beautiful. Taizo never brought back any sketches or artwork from the United States and never sold his work commercially. The family said Taizo was very liberal for a Japanese at that time. Among other things, he liked Western music, in particular Paul Mautriat and Julio Iglesias, which was very rare among his generation.

Upon Taizo's return to Japan, he found things very difficult, mainly because of the lack of readily available food. Over the years, he pursued a variety of businesses. At first Taizo traded kimonos for money and food to feed his family. Eventually Taizo encountered a Mr. Davis, an American who had served as an officer at the prison camp where Taizo had been held. Through Davis, Taizo was able to get a job in the banking industry where he worked for many years. Once at the bank, Mrs. Douglas McArthur, the wife of Gen. McArthur, came as a customer and because of his language skills and time in America, Taizo was assigned the very prestigious, but nerve-racking, task of receiving her. During the Korean War, Taizo got out of banking and opened a coffee shop for several years with a French theme and name, "*Bon*" that was frequented by American GIs.



Taizo Sakamoto died in 1988, at the age of 68. Sumiko died four years earlier at the age of 58. Both are interned in the same grave in a cemetery at the bottom of Mt. Fuji.

Taizo's niece, Emiko, married after the war and became a housewife. She had six children and eight grandchildren, and is now widowed. Although she is the cousin of Taizo's children, Yoichiro, Rumi and Michiyo, they had not seen each other for years before our reunion. She was very petite and sweet, and we hugged each other repeatedly during the evening.

The Legacy of Taizo "Sakai" Sakamoto

During filming, both Yoichiro and I were asked how we viewed Taizo's legacy. I said that both my father and

I thought he was a very intelligent man and something of a prophet because he knew it was time to stop the war and that suicide was senseless and wasteful (*Sois Sage/Be Wise*). Indeed, if the war had stopped in March 1945 when Taizo surrendered, instead of August 1945, many of the bombings would have been avoided and countless persons would not have died. Yoichiro said that he agreed and also believes Taizo was something of a prophet. He said Taizo hated the whole war and thought it was a big waste.

Over the years I had often wondered how Taizo's family and the Japanese public would react to the fact that Taizo surrendered, rather than fighting to the death or committing suicide like many other Japanese. I feared he would be regarded as a traitor. But the theme of my quest was not the intelligence American learned from Taizo, but to honor the wishes of both my dad and Taizo and return the photographs to Japan. Accordingly, during my interactions with the Japanese, I always emphasized that Taizo was captured, not that he surrendered, and I downplayed the intelligence information he provided his captors.

During filming, however, I was pleased to learn from Tatsuya that the younger Japanese, and much of the older generation, now feel that fighting to the death was wasteful and wrong. Tatsuya actually stated on the record twice while filming that he personally felt it was wrong to commit suicide, and he admired Taizo for being wise and surrendering ("*Sois Sage*") when the battle was obviously over. Indeed, Tatsuya's films actually emphasize that Taizo was an important POW to the Americans and quote facts and information revealed from his interrogation reports.

The return of the photographs was reported in the Tokyo newspapers, which quoted both Taizo's son and me: "Steve gave a speech in Japanese which he practiced over and over again, as he returned the photographs to the family. Yoichiro, with tears in his eyes said, "Both of our fathers must be glad. Thank you."

Part four of Tatsuya's film appeared on Japanese TV on Dec. 18, 2008, with part five on Feb. 21, 2009. We were told the series has been very well received all over Japan. A final one-hour special will air on Japanese National TV in May 2009 and will bring to a close *The Hunt for Taizo Sakai*.

1940s *Spearhead* magazines available in improved format

Do you remember your *Spearhead* magazines from the 1940s? If you have misplaced any of your three copies and are interested in replacing them, we have just the solution for you.

The magazines are now in 8.5" x 11" format, printed on cardstock paper with a spiral binding and plastic covers. They will lay flat and are very easy to see and read. The copies turned out beautifully, and everyone who has seen them loves them.

This was the idea of Steve Vogelzang, the nephew of Sam Zigtema, a member of the Pioneers, who wanted to honor his uncle. I agreed to take on

the project, and all proceeds above the cost of printing and mailing will go to the Wounded Warriors through the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Each copy is \$20, plus \$5 for mailing — we can mail up to three copies for the \$5 shipping fee.

The copies available are No. 1 "Camp Pendleton," No. 2 "Two Jima" and No. 3 "Occupation of Japan." If you are interested in obtaining any of the copies, please contact me.

— D.D. Dietz
(608) 254-1976
dddietz@aol.com

Stimulus package

Continued from page 2

As to the subject of merging the 5th Marine Division Association with other Division Associations and having the Reunion in the same place each year, no interest has been shown to support or propose such action. There already is a joint reunion each year at Camp Pendleton during the month of February. Anyone interested in that gathering please contact Bob Hansen at (949) 644-4583.

If you are concerned about the future of your Association, I strongly urge you to stay informed and make yourself heard. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. See you in Houston.

— Mike Dietz
Trustee Chairman
(608) 254-1976
dddietz@aol.com

By their victory, the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and other units of the Fifth Amphibious Corps have made an accounting to their country which only history will be able to value fully. Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, U.S. Navy

Silent auction for Wounded Marine Semper Fi Fund

The silent auction committee of the Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank everyone who so generously contributed items for the auction and for all the very generous bids on all the items we sold at the 2008 reunion. The money from this endeavor helped in our contribution to the Wounded Marine Semper Fi Fund.

We will again have a silent auction at the 2009 reunion and are looking for your help on this project. This means we are accepting contributions of items you wish to donate for the auction. Craft, collector items and other things that might be of interest to those attending and want to part with their hard-earned cash for our worthy cause and receive something in return.

This year we are also having a raffle on two items we hope everyone will be interested in and want to take a chance on them.

— Pat McGruder
Auxiliary Correspondent
jp5339@att.net

FINAL MUSTER ("Roll Call of the Reef")

BARNHART, Verrol S. **HQ-1-28** 11/18/08
CALLISON, James M. **5TH ENGR** 03/13/09
CAMP, William D. **F-2-28** 03/20/09
CAMPBELL, William D. **F-2-27** 02/09/09
LEACH, Wallace E. **I-3-26** 01/02/09
THORNTON, Robert W. **5TH RECON** 01/02/08



FOR NINE YEARS WE HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF OPENING OUR MUSEUM TO THOUSANDS OF VISITORS FAR AND WIDE, YOUNG AND OLD, MARINES AND OTHERS. HOWEVER, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008, WE REGRETFULLY INFORM YOU THAT THE COLONEL CHARLES WATERHOUSE HISTORICAL MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSING ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC.

WE SURVIVED BY PURE WILL AND THE UNCEASING AND LOVING LABORS OF A VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION WHO WORKED ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET TO FULFILL A MOST UNIQUE AND DESERVING MISSION TO "...DISPLAY, PRESERVE, AND PERPETUATE NJ ARTIST COLONEL CHARLES WATERHOUSE'S LIFETIME BODY OF HISTORICAL AND MILITARY ARTWORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WITH A UNIQUE VISUAL EXPERIENCE AND AN ENHANCED APPRECIATION OF OUR LOCAL AND NATIONAL HERITAGE." AND WE LOVED BEING THERE FOR YOU.

HOWEVER, TIMES ARE CHANGING, AND IT IS TIME FOR US TO USE OUR REMAINING FUNDS AND ENERGY TO TRY TO FIND A CHAMPION FOR OUR CAUSE AND A NEW HOME FOR THE ART COLLECTION.

WHETHER YOU NEVER MADE IT TO THE MUSEUM, BUT YOU SUPPORTED IT ANYWAY — OR YOU STUMBLED IN BY ACCIDENT AND WERE SURPRISED BY THE POWERFUL EXPERIENCE — OR YOU WERE A MARINE, A STUDENT, OR A FELLOW ARTIST — OR JUST STOPPED BY TO SEE THE COLONEL AND BARBARA —

WE THANK YOU!
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISITS, YOUR FRIENDSHIP,
AND YOUR SUPPORT.

PLEASE KEEP THE MUSEUM IN YOUR THOUGHTS AS WE SEARCH FOR A GOOD HOME — ALBEIT CIVILIAN OR MILITARY — FOR THE WATERHOUSE ORIGINAL ART COLLECTION.

EDWARD C. SERE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AMY W. LOTANO
PRESIDENT

17 WASHINGTON ST. TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753 732-818-9040
WATERHOUSEMUSEUM@AOL.COM

Secretary's Corner

Please notify us of any change in address. The post office does not forward third-class mail, and that is the way our *Spearhead News* is mailed. Our new lifetime membership fee has helped to bring on board more than 150 new lifers, so to speak.



A friend recently gave me a bona fide Iwo Jima 3-cent stamp, which shows the flag-raising and the words, "TWO JIMA." I had forgotten that such a stamp existed, so I had it enlarged for all to see. The legacy of the Fifth Marine Division lives on!

— Ted Overgard
Secretary

NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME ABOARD!

McMELLON, Thomas **HQ-5TH ENGR**
Portland, CT
RAFFIELD, Bradley S. **ASSOCIATE**
Houston, TX
SOLI, Sheri **ASSOCIATE**
Bremerton, WA

ANNUAL TO LIFE MEMBERS

ADAMS, Joseph H. F-2-26
BARTL, Ted J. E-2-26
BAY, Judson E. Jr. F-2-27
BELCHER, Henry C. I-3-26
BOWLES, Frank L. K-4-13
BUNDY, Harvey F-2-26
CAMILLI, Louis HS-8TH SERV
CARLSON, John W. B-1-28
CARROTHERS, Diane F. ASSOCIATE
CEYNOWA, Paul HQ-1-28
CHAMPAGNE, Alcide J. HQ-27
CHAPMAN, Edward P. HQ-1-27
COLBERT, Leonard J. H-3-28
COYNE, Laurence E. HQ-3-28
CRAIG, George L. HS-2-13

CRAWLEY, Fred S. D-2-13
CREONTE, Dominic HS-2-13
CROSS, Homer C-1-9/3RD DIV
DANKO, Paul J. A-1-26
DE GEUS, ROBERT D. F-2-26
DIEKMAN, Carl Jr. S&S-26
EBENKAMP, Francis B-5TH MED
EUTSEY, Al C. C-1-28
FERRIN, Lloyd T. RECON HQ
FINK, Mahlon L. E-2-26
FINKELSTEIN, Isidore ASSOCIATE
GREENE, David C. HQ-3-26
GRIFFITH, James H. 5TH ENGR
HAIGH, June G. I-3-28
HARRIS, Emmit Jr. HQ-1-27
HAVERSTOCK, Elden B. 5TH ENGR
HOLZINGER, Robert W. F-2-27
JARSTAD, Melford K. WPNS-27
JORDAN, Irving C. HQ-2-27
KERWIN, James R. B-1-27
KING, Robert L., DDS 5TH PION
LAURIELLO, John P. HS-27
LEONARD, Morgan F. G-3-27

McCARTAN, Edward J. USN H-3-28
McMELLON, Thomas HQ-5TH ENGR
MITCHELL, Wm. C. Billy C-1-28
MONGILLO, Phil HQ-1-28
NORTH, Donald L. C-5TH TANK
PAGAC, Joseph C. H-3-26
PETERS, Warren, A. A-1-28
PONTISSO, Frank J. C-1-28
QUICK, Fred G. F-2-26
RENEAU, Richard L. WPNS-27
RITZ, John B. F-2-28
RODDIS, Roy Jr. M-4-13
SCHMITT, Shirley M. ASSOCIATE
SMITH, Jack W. I-3-26
SHELTON, Fred L. H-3-26
STAUFFER, Frederick W. 5TH TANK
SULLIVAN, Thomas W. H-3-13
SVEHLA, Allen E-2-26
SWITZER, Noah I-3-28
TILGHMAN, Richard A. F-2-27
TRIMBLE, Emert D-2-28
WESSLING, John T. HQ-3-26
WISSELL, Oscar J. HQ-27

BAR project underway

I'm pressed for time and space in this issue, but Rob Eccleston, our sculptor, reports, "The sculpture is being cast through the lost wax process. Special sculpting wax is being poured or brushed into the different molds of the sculpture. When the wax cures, the wax is removed from the mold and reassembled. I hope to have it in rough cast bronze by the end of August."

I'll take Rob's word for it. He knows what's happening. I don't have a clue. But we should have more reports on hand for the upcoming summer issue.

Stay tuned.

– Bert "Clay" Clayton

2008 Marine of the Year sparks pride

Sgt. Jonathan Coats (at right), Harrison, Ark., was named Marine of the Year on Nov. 10, 2008. Sgt. Coats is currently a member of the 14th Marine Regiment. He was graduated from Harrison High School in 2002, joined the Marine Corps in 2003, was deployed to Iraq in December 2003 and returned to the States in January 2005.



I was introduced to Sgt. Coats in the spring of 2008 by his mother, Dr. Teri Coats. I was really impressed when he said, "I am very honored to meet you, sir." I had never before heard a Marine refer to me as "Sir," so naturally, I liked him immediately.

Since his return from Iraq, he has received additional training at various locations throughout the United States. I visited with Sgt. Coats in early March 2009, and he told me he was to be sent overseas once more in May of this year. He thought that he would probably be sent to Afghanistan. He also told me that he loves the Corps and plans to make it a lifetime career. Knowing that we have personnel like him defending our country makes one feel good.

– Ted Overgard
Secretary

Chair in World War II studies established at Eastern Ill. University

The James Jones Literary Society and the College of Arts and Humanities at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill., have joined forces to establish the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies, the dean of the college announced.

"The College of Arts & Humanities, Eastern Illinois University, is both delighted and honored to house The James Jones Chair in World War II Studies," Dean James K. Johnson said in accepting the initial \$10,000 contribution from the society to initiate the chair.

"With the 1951 publication of *From Here to Eternity* and his collective body of World War II work, James Jones is recognized as one of the most significant American literary voices of his generation who wrote on subjects of such importance they defined that very generation. Both our English and history departments are committed to hosting the very best young scholars in literary and historical studies of World War II.

After the \$1.5 million endowment for the chair is reached, a visiting writer or scholar will be selected by the dean's committee, which will include a member of the society, to spend time in residence in either the English or History Department each semester on the work of Jones and other World War II writers and the history of World War II.

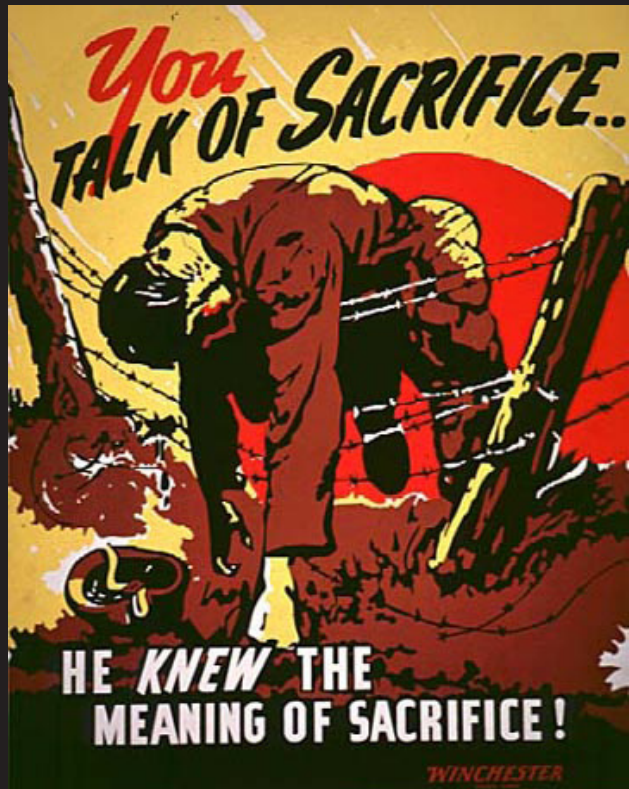
Until the endowment is completely funded, however, the college will host the James Jones Lecture Series annually to raise awareness of James Jones and the chair to be endowed. And the James Jones Symposium on Memories of War will be held on EIU's campus Nov. 5-7 this fall in conjunction with the lecture series, which will feature National Book Award winner and Vietnam veteran author Tim O'Brien. Jones' daughter, novelist Kaylie Jones (*A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*) will be on hand to speak about her father's work and conduct a creative writing workshop for EIU students.

"I appreciate Dean Johnson's agreement in bringing the chair in my father's name to Eastern Illinois University," Kaylie Jones said. "I know he'd be quite pleased that his name and his work will help future generations of students understand and appreciate the dark days of World War II."

The flyer on the opposite page may be used for contributions. Scholarships and other naming opportunities are available.

– Ray Elliott, Spearhead Editor
Past President
James Jones Literary Society

Yes. I would like to support
**the
 James Jones
 Chair
 in WWII
 Studies**
 at Eastern Illinois University



Name(s) _____		Address _____		
Phone (Home) _____		City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Phone (Office) _____		E-mail _____		

If your spouse is an Eastern alumna/us, please provide us with his or her full name (and maiden name if applicable) so we may update our records

Three-year pledge:

please accept my monthly gift of \$27.77 for the next three years (for a total of \$1,000)

To authorize a one-time or recurring donation from your bank account, please go to www.eiu.edu/~develop/images/efform.pdf

One-time gift:

please accept my gift of \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

Check, made payable to: EIU Foundation Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

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Signature _____

Please send all correspondence and contributions to:
 Karla Evans, Executive Director
 EIU Office of Philanthropy
 600 Lincoln Avenue
 Charleston, IL 61920-3099



Code Name High Pockets: The True Story of Claire Phillips, an American Mata Hari, and the WWII Resistance

By Edna Bautista Binkowski
Valour Press, 260 pages

This is a well-researched book containing considerable information I've not previously encountered concerning the Manila-based resistance movement against the Japanese during WWII.

Although centered on the colorful Claire Phillips, an adventurous American woman, who became heavily involved in espionage and in the clandestine support of American POWs, the book also tells the story of Margaret Utinsky, an American nurse who also performed heroically in smuggling food, medicine and money to imprisoned GIs. The women were allies in this and sometimes rivals. Utinsky would be rewarded immediately after the end of the war, while Phillips claims were initially rejected and never compensated as fully as she expected.

Claire Dela Taste (her maiden name) ran away from her Portland, Ore., home and joined a circus at 15. Eventually leaving the circus, she bounced from job to job in vaudeville until her early 20s, when her wanderlust took her to the Philippines, where she supported herself as a singer.

Two months after arriving, she married a wealthy Filipino. Isolated and unhappy in the marriage, she adopted a child, then fled back to the U.S. after illegally selling her husband's mansion while he was overseas on business. She and her adopted daughter returned to Manila two years later, arriving about three months before the Japanese invasion. Again using her maiden name, she turned once more to singing to support herself and the child. Soon she met and (probably) married John Phillips, an American soldier in the 31st Infantry, who would subsequently die in a Japanese POW camp.

Not long after the Japanese occupied Manila, Claire adopted the alias Dorothy Claire Fuentes (the last name of her Filipino former husband) and managed to obtain false papers documenting herself as an Italian.

Initially she worked in a nightclub run by German Jewish woman catering to the Japanese.

Then in October 1942 Claire launched her own establishment named the Tsubaki Club. The club became very popular with high-ranking Japanese military and businessmen, and would become an espionage center feeding information to American-led guerrillas in the Manila area. Her code name "high pockets" developed from her habit of hiding notes and jewelry in her bra.

At about the same time, Margaret Utinsky became actively involved with Filipino Red Cross workers who were smuggling food, medicine and money to American POWs. She too managed to obtain false credentials as a spinster Lithuanian nurse. (She actually was married

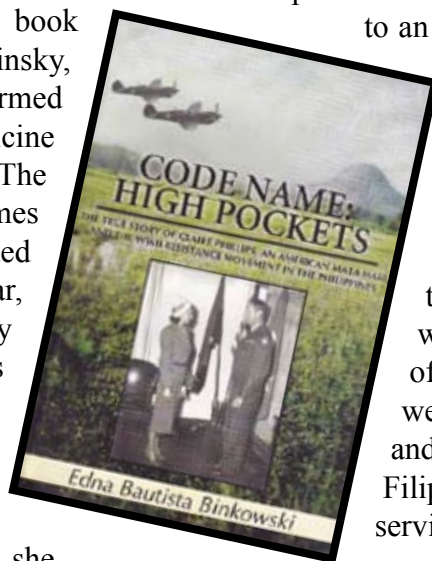
to an American civil engineer who had joined MacArthur's troops on Bataan and did not survive the war.)

Both women were arrested and tortured by the Japanese military police, and then later released. Not so fortunate were many of the Filipinos with whom they had worked. The Manila network was infiltrated by an informer and most of the Filipino members, many of them wealthy socialites, were arrested, tortured and executed. The selfless heroics of these Filipinos saved the lives of many American servicemen.

The most interesting portions of the book describe the activities of the two American women, as well as the fate of the Manila-based resistance movement, eventually almost totally destroyed by the Japanese. The book contains some fairly graphic description of the torture inflicted on suspected members of the resistance and their later execution.

Edna Binkowski's book is a fascinating read, which I strongly recommend to anyone wishing to find out more about wartime Manila and the heroic resistance to the Japanese occupation.

— **J. Michael Houlahan**



Published in the Winter/Spring 2009 issue of Philippine Scout Heritage Society and used with permission. Overseas paperback order: \$28 made out to Edna Binkowski; mailed to Valour Publishing: P.O. Box 6345, Limay, Bataan, Philippines 2103. ISBN 978-971-93607-0-4.

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 60TH REUNION
 MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21 – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2009
 REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are registration, tour and meal costs for the reunion.

- Please enter how many attendees will be participating in each event and the total costs for each.
- Send a **check or money order** payable to:
**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION
 C/O IVAN HAMMOND
 PO BOX 828
 SANTA FE, TX 77517
 (Phone: 409.925.3914 home - or – 409.770.4249 cell)**
- Phone or credit cards will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation.
- **All registration forms & payments must be received by mail on or before August 1, 2009.** After that, registration will be accepted on a space-available basis only.
- We suggest that you make a copy of your completed form prior to mailing.
- Refunds of activities will depend on vendor policy and/or resale of tickets.
- Cancellation must be received by September 1, 2009.
- **NOTE: NAME TAGS MUST BE WORN IN ORDER TO GET INTO ALL FUNCTIONS**

AUGUST 1, 2009 IS THE CUT-OFF DATE

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PRICE	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
Tuesday September 22		Registration - Members Only	\$15.00		\$15.00
		Ladies Auxiliary Dues – Optional	\$10.00		\$
		Hospitality Room Fee	\$25.00		\$
Wednesday September 23	9:30 a.m.	Tour USS Texas (Meal served)	\$41.00		\$
Thursday September 24	9:00 a.m.	Tour Johnson Space Center/Space Center Houston (Meal served)	\$35.00		\$
Friday September 25	9:00 a.m.	Tour Houston Museum of Natural Science (Meal served)	\$48.00		\$
Saturday September 26	7:00 p.m.	Dinner at Marriott Hobby Airport Please make your selection(s): Filet Mignon # _____ Chicken # _____	\$45.00		\$

Please PRINT all information below that is applicable to you. **TOTAL PAYABLE \$ _____**

Name _____ Rank _____ CO _____ BN _____ Regiment _____

Dates of Service: _____ To: _____ Theater of Operation _____

Battles _____

Name of Spouse and/or Guest _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip _____ Phone _____



HOTEL REGISTRATION



5th Marine Division Association

2009 Reunion

Monday, September 21 – Sunday, September 27, 2009

**CUT OFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS
AUGUST 22, 2009**

Houston Hobby Airport Marriott
9100 Gulf Freeway
Houston, TX 77017
713.943.7979 phone
713.943.1621 fax
Contact: Monte Green

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PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____ # IN PARTY _____
ARRIVAL DATE _____ ETA _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

PLEASE CHECK ROOM TYPE REQUESTED SMOKING NON-SMOKING
 SINGLE DOUBLE
\$89.00 \$89.00

Rates do not include applicable state and local taxes. Rates available 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion.

DINERS CLUB AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER VISA MASTERCARD
CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED AFTER THE CUT-OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO SPACE AVAILABILITY; GROUP RATE NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

To guarantee your reservation, we require first night's deposit by either:
1. Mail an advance deposit in the form of a check or money order payable to "Marriott Hobby Airport" covering the first night's room and tax along with a copy of this form.
2. Include your credit card number. We accept Diners Club, American Express, Discover, Visa and Mastercard.
Deposits will be refunded only if cancellation notification is given at least 24 hours prior to arrival. Please fill in the information requested above and return this to the attention of Hotel Reservation Department.

Complimentary Airport Shuttle

When you arrive at Hobby airport, go to the baggage claim area. Pick up courtesy phone and dial the number indicated as "Marriott Hobby Airport". Tell the operator your name and airline number and they will let you know the appropriate pick-up location.

RV Parking

RV Parking is available at no charge on site. Additional RV related services are available at:
Bob Jones RV Services - (713) 910-2949
Hunt Kapital Kampers - (713) 946-0300

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ted Overgard, Secretary
 P.O. Box 1775
 Harrison, AR 72602-1775

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**5th Marine Division Association
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Office Use Only

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CRD		FM	
ADS		NL	

All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time.

New member () Renewal () Associate ()

Served with: _____
 Co. Bn. Reg.

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to:
 5th Marine Division Association
 Ted Overgard, Secretary
 P.O. Box 1775
 Harrison, AR 72602-1775

Date of birth (for Life Membership): _____

Dues (please check):

- () Annual \$ 25.00
- () Lifetime \$ 150.00
 age 64 and under
- () Lifetime \$ 100.00
 age 65 through 79
- () Lifetime \$ 50.00
 age 80 and over
- () General Fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: 5th Marine Division Assn.)