



# Boy Scouts of the Philippines

## National Office

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17 January 2024

### NATIONAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

No.: 05 , series of 2024

**TO : REGIONAL SCOUT DIRECTORS  
COUNCILS SCOUTYS EXECUTIVES AND  
OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE**

**SUBJECT : COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE  
BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
(EXCOM RESOLUTION NO. 1, Series of 2023)**

1. The Boy Scouts of the Philippines was legally created as a public corporation by virtue of the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 111, signed by President Manuel Luis Quezon on October 31, 1936 with the purpose of promoting "the ability of boys to do useful things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts".
2. Commonwealth Act No. 111, was further amended by Presidential Decree No. 460 and Republic Act No. 7278 having the same aspiration to inculcate the teachings and values of being a Scout to the nation and the youth of the land.
3. The creation of such institution was pioneered by the founding fathers namely Joseph Emile H. Stevenot, Arsenio N. Luz, Carlos P. Romulo, General Vicente P. Lim, Judge Manuel R. Camus, Jorge B. Vargas and Gabriel A. Daza.
4. J.E.H. Stevenot served as the first President of the BSP, with Jorge B. Vargas as First Vice President, Carlos P. Romulo as Second Vice President, General Vicente Lim as Treasurer, Judge Manuel R. Camus as National Scout Commissioner, Exequiel Villacorta as Chief Scout Executive, and Severino V. Araos as Deputy Chief Scout Executive.
5. Our Scouts and Adult Leaders can better appreciate the Scouting Movement if they know the persons who pioneered Scouting in the Philippines. The lives, respective works and contributions of the founding fathers of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines will definitely inspire our Scouts to be always prepared to give one's self for the glory of God and the Republic of the Philippines.
6. Towards this end and pursuant to National Executive Committee Resolution No. 1, approved last 24 January 2023, all Regional Offices, Local Councils and their respective Local Government Units are requested to commemorate the lives of the founding fathers born in their respective localities during their birth dates.

7. There must be a local commemoration to be celebrated annually in the following places:
- a.) Negros Occidental Council-Western Visayas Region as the birthplace of Mr. Jose Bartolome Vargas on **August 24**;
  - b.) Eastern Samar Council- Eastern Visayas Region as the birthplace of Mr. Gabriel Daza on **February 6**;
  - c.) Lipa Council-Southern Tagalog Region as the birthplace of Mr. Arsenio Nicanor Luz on **December 14**;
  - d.) Tarlac Council-Central Luzon Region as the birthplace of Mr. Carlos Romulo Pena on **January 14**;
  - e.) Laguna Council-Southern Tagalog Region as the birthplace of Mr. Vicente Podico Lim on **February 24**;
  - f.) Manila Council-National Capital Region as the birthplace of Manuel Roxas Camus on **October 16**; and
  - g.) Iloilo Council-Western Visayas Region as the birthplace of Mr. Tomas Confessor on **March 2**.
8. The **GENERAL COMMEMORATION DAY** of the BSP Founding Fathers must be among the highlights of the Scouting Month annually throughout the National Office and Regional Offices of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and that **the LOCAL COMMEMORATION** be celebrated annually in the aforementioned Councils with the support and collaboration of the Local Government Units in those dates mentioned.
9. Attached are the respective biographies of the BSP's founding fathers, for everyone's reference.
10. After-activity reports may be submitted to the National Office through Mr. Carmelo B. Francia with email address <[boyet.francia@scouts.gov.ph](mailto:boyet.francia@scouts.gov.ph)>, for proper documentation and consolidation.
11. For your information, guidance and widest dissemination.



**KIM ROBERT C. DE LEON**  
Director IV (Secretary General)



## JOSEPHUS EMILE HAMILTON STEVENOT

(December 23, 1888 – June 8, 1943) was an American entrepreneur and U.S. Army officer in the Philippines with many accomplishments, but today mostly remembered in the Boy Scouts of the Philippines as a co-founder.



### BACKGROUND AND CAREER

Josephus Emile Hamilton "Joe" Stevenot was born in Melones, California to Emile Knoepffler Stevenot (1846–1906) and Sarah Elisabeth Hamilton Stephens Stevenot (1855–1928). Emile Knoepffler Stevenot was born in Alsace-Lorraine, trained as a mining engineer, and migrated to the USA to join his father Jean Dieudonne Gabriel Knoepffler Stevenot (1813–1885), a California miner.

Joe had eight siblings. Joe and his three brothers, Fred, Archibald, and Casimir, were involved in various enterprises, and set up their Stevenot Corporation which had mining interests in California and the Philippines. Casimir also founded the California Philippine Corporation for import and export. Joe based himself in the Philippines to attend to their business concerns in the islands.

Josephus Stevenot served as Director of the Philippine Trust Company, President and General Manager of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), Director of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Director of Philippine Milling Company, Director of Philippine Realty Corporation, and Director of Fidelity & Surety Company.

At the same time, Stevenot was involved in military matters as a major in the active reserves. An Army pilot, he was appointed to the command of the aviation unit of the Philippine National Guard (which had been planned to be involved in World War I but never saw action). Stevenot recruited his flying instructor Alfred John Croft (1887–1970), and together they established the Curtiss School of Aviation (called the Curtiss Flying School, after the original Curtiss Flying School) in Camp Claudio, Parañaque, Rizal, where they trained the first 25 Filipino pilots. They subsequently organised an air show by their students, held on 21 June 1921.

In June 1941, in Washington DC with Secretary of War Henry Lewis Stimson, Stevenot urged closer cooperation between Philippine Army Field Marshall Douglas MacArthur and U.S. Army Philippine Department Commander Maj. Gen. George Grunert.

As portents of war became more pronounced, Stevenot became more active in intelligence work. It was while working for Allied intelligence in the South West Pacific Area in World War II that Col. Stevenot died in a plane crash in Vanuatu. After an initial burial, his remains were later transferred to La Loma Cemetery, allegedly by request of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

### SCOUTING INVOLVEMENT

Stevenot's involvement in Scouting in the Philippines started with the Boy Scouts of America Philippine Islands Council No. 545, as Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Council was financially unstable and he was invited by West Pointer Gen. Vicente Lim, a Boy Scouting supporter. The Council improved considerably under Stevenot's guidance, and in 1934 he was elected the last President of the BSA Philippine Islands Council No. 545.

With the imminent granting of independence to the Philippines by the United States in 1946, Stevenot worked for the establishment of a Philippine Boy Scout organization. "Almost single-handed, President Stevenot worked for the gradual grant of autonomy to our Boy Scout Organization,..." (— *Scouting for Filipino Boys*, page 11). He performed the paper work, obtained the support of six prominent national personalities to lend their names as incorporators, and lobbied the Philippine National Assembly for a legal charter, imitating the Congressional charter obtained by the Boy Scouts of America from the United States Congress. His efforts resulted in a legislative bill sponsored by Assemblyman Tomás Valenzuela Confesor (1891–1951) and signed into law as Commonwealth Act 111 by Pres. Manuel L. Quezon on October 31, 1936. As founder of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Stevenot became both the first President (the corporate head of the organization) and the first Chief Scout (patterned after Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell and Ernest Thompson Seton, to act as the focus of the youth's inspiration which had fueled the entire Scout Movement globally).

In 1937, in his letter "To the People of the Philippine Islands," dated October 28, 1937, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. commended Stevenot: "In Major Stevenot you have an exceptionally able and public spirited man."

In 1939, Stevenot supported the establishment of a Girl Scout organization by sending Josefa Llanes Escoda to the United States and Britain for training. Upon Escoda's return to the Philippines, he assisted her in setting up the Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

In 1941, by request of the BSP, the BSA recognized Stevenot's service to youth with the award of the Silver Buffalo.

## **DEATH**

Stevenot was buried in New Caledonia. He was later exhumed by the US Army and his friend fellow Boy Scouts of the Philippines charter member Don Gabriel Daza. His remains were later buried with full Scouting honours at La Loma Cemetery in the Philippines. Forty years later, Stevenot's wife passed in California and one of Stevenot's daughters and Daza brought the ashes to the Philippines to be buried beside her husband.

## **JORGE BARTOLOME VARGAS Y CELIS**

In this Spanish name, the first or paternal surname is Vargas and the second or maternal family name is Celis.

Jorge Bartolomé Vargas y Celis (August 24, 1890 – February 22, 1980) was a Filipino lawyer, diplomat and youth advocate born in Bago, Negros Occidental, Philippines. He graduated valedictorian from Negros Occidental High School in 1909 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1911 and a Bachelor of Law degree with honors in 1914, both from the University of the Philippines. He was a founding member of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (now the Philippine Olympic Committee) in 1911 and served in its executive committee in 1918. He served as its second chairman from 1935 to 1955. He was also the first Filipino member of the International Olympic Committee.



### **GOVERNMENT SERVICE**

After being admitted to the Philippine Bar in 1914, he was appointed as a law clerk for the Philippine Commission in 1915. He was promoted to the position of chief clerk of the Department of the Interior in 1917.

In 1918, he served as the legislative secretary to Speaker Sergio Osmeña of the House of Representatives.

In 1921, Vargas succeeded Vicente Morente as director-general of the Philippine Carnival Association which ran the Manila Carnival. He was succeeded by Arsenio Luz the following year.

In 1936, Vargas was appointed by President Manuel L. Quezon as his executive secretary, becoming the first in the country to serve in such a position.

When the Japanese invaded the country in 1941, Vargas was designated to the Department of National Defense as its secretary. A few weeks later, he was appointed by President Quezon as mayor of the City of Greater Manila in 1941. His responsibilities included administering the open city upon the arrival of occupational troops of the Imperial Japanese Army on January 2, 1942.

By 1942, Vargas became chairman of the Japanese-sponsored Philippine Executive Commission. During the collaborationist Second Philippine Republic, he was once asked by the Japanese to assume the Presidency, but he declined. He instead served as the regime's ambassador to Japan. In that position, he was quoted shortly before Japanese troops were driven from Manila as stating that "we know Japan is destined for sure victory and prosperity for ages to come."

Vargas served as chairman of the National Planning Commission from 1946 to 1954 and was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines from 1961 to 1965. In 1960, the Philippines conferred on him the Legion of Honor with the rank of commander.

## **SCOUTING**

Vargas involvement with scouting started in 1935 when he became a member of the executive board of the Philippine Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Together with other Philippine scouting advocates, he became one of the charter members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in 1936.

Upon the death of Manuel Camus in 1949, Vargas was unanimously chosen by the National Executive Board to serve as the president and chief scout of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He served the position of national president until 1961. He became a member of the World Scout Committee of the World Organization of the Scout Movement from 1951 to 1957.

Vargas was awarded the Bronze Wolf in 1959 and received other awards including the Silver Tamaraw (Philippines), Silver Fox (Canada), Silver Ibex (Austria), Silver Wolf (UK), and in 1959 also received the highest distinction of the Scout Association of Japan, the Golden Pheasant Award.<sup>[9]</sup> He also became the first recipient of the Tanglaw ng Kabataan (Light of the Youth) Award of the BSP in 1961.

## **DEATH**

Vargas died on February 22, 1980, in Manila, Philippines at the age of 89.

## **HONOR**

Japan: Grand Cordon (1st Class) of the Order of the Rising Sun (October 1, 1943)

## GABRIEL A. DAZA

Don Gabriel Amando Cinco Daza, KGCR, KC\*SS (February 6, 1896 – May 18, 1994), better known as Gabriel A. Daza, was the first Filipino electrical engineer and one of the charter members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP). He co-founded the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Co. (PT&T), Philippine Electric Manufacturing Company (PEMCO), Phelps Dodge Philippines. He was the supervising engineer and assistant general manager of Visayan Electric Company (VECO) and led its expansion out of Cebu City. President and chief scout of the BSP in 1961–68. In 1945, President Osmeña appointed Daza to be a member of the board of directors of the Manila Railroad Company and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. In 1950, he was vice-chairman of the National Power Corporation and on the board of directors of the Manila Hotel Company. In 1951, Daza was appointed by President Quirino as a founding member of the board of directors of the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation. President and director of the National Economic Protection Agency (NEPA) in 1956.



Daza was born and raised in Borongan, Eastern Samar, to Don Eugenio Daza and his wife, Carolina Cinco. Daza was a *principale* (noble) through his father, while the social class was slowly dissolved following American colonialism, Daza retained the *principale* honorific title of *Don*. Daza was the eldest of 7 siblings: Carlota, Cirilo, Jesus, Rosario, Maria and Juan. Daza was born 3 months before his father left to fight in the Philippine Revolution. In 1907, when Daza was 11, his father became the Representative of their region to the First Philippine Legislature. That same year he began studying at Ateneo de Manila. While at Ateneo he would befriend Andrés Soriano Sr. and their junior José Cojuangco. In 1914, Daza completed a Bachelor of Arts at the Ateneo de Manila University.

In 1915, he was part of the Philippine Delegation to the Panama–Pacific International Exposition. After the exposition, Daza ended up staying in the United States for the next seven years.

While studying engineering in the U.S., Daza picked up "odd jobs" to support himself. These odd jobs at various times included being an elevator boy, messenger, telephone operator, gardener, janitor, clerk, and even a houseboy for the U.S. House of Representatives Philippine Resident Commissioner Jaime C. de Veyra. Daza stated his experience in these odd jobs were the reason he was known for his cleanliness, orderliness, and fondness for nature. Daza's U.S. World War I draft registration card states that he was an American citizen.

In 1915, Daza moved to the U.S. to attend Herald's Engineering College in San Francisco, California. While studying he lived at the Hotel Dorchester and worked there as a clerk.<sup>[5]</sup> Daza then studied at the Bliss Electrical School in Washington, D.C. where he graduated in 1919.

Shortly after, Daza moved to Wilksburg, Pennsylvania in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, where he lodged at the home of a fellow electrical engineer Everett Ashworth who had recently married and moved from Washington, New York. Daza worked at the mainplant of Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a company that employed the likes of Nikola Tesla, and studied in the Westinghouse Educational Department.<sup>[2]</sup> He joined the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Bliss Electrical School Alumni Association. Daza studied in Alexander & Baldwin, New York, to help familiarise himself with engineering methods and practices before working for Catton-Neil Eng. & Machinery Co. Daza received his graduate and post-grad from Westinghouse.<sup>[2]</sup> While Daza was studying, he taught his Spanish-speaking colleagues what he learned at school, they later "offered him a good-paying job in Argentina" which he declared was "a turning point." He decided "it was time [to] go home and do my share here."

In 1922, Daza worked as an electrical engineer and salesman for Catton-Neill Eng. & Machinery Co a local subsidiary of Westinghouse and was an Associate Member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE). On December 3, 1927, Daza became a full member of the AIEE.

In Cebu City, as early as 1927, Daza was the Supervising Engineer and Assistant General Manager of the Visayan Electric Company (VECO), and the Assistant General Manager of the Visayan Electric Supply Company. Daza led the expansion of VECO out of the Cebu City. In 1929, Daza went to the Philippine Legislature in Manila to develop a new franchise for VECO. In 1931, the Legislature approved a 50-year franchise allowing VECO to expand to: Mandaue, Consolacion, Liloan and Compostela, North of Cebu; and Talisay, Minglanilla, Naga, San Fernando and Danao.

In 1928, Col. Joseph E. Stevenot sought out Daza for his engineering prowess. Together, Daza and Stevenot co-founded the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT). Throughout his career at PLDT Daza filled several positions at various times including Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Public Service Commissioner, Manager of Manila District and Acting General Commercial Manager.

Daza (left) smoking a cigar attending a Signal Corps dinner for Mr. Ledesma's (standing) departure to the U.S. Heading the table is Chief of the Signal Corps Lt. Col. Paciano Tangco (right).



From 1930 to 1939, Daza was the Illuminating Engineer of the executive staff, and Electrical Engineer of the Philippine Carnival Association. The association held the Manila Carnival, an American Colonial showcase for Philippine commerce, industry and agriculture. He co-founded the Philippine Electric Manufacturing Company (PEMCO) and Phelps Dodge Philippines. From 1936 to 1937, Daza was the chairman of Illumination Committee for the 33rd International Eucharistic Congress (IEC). In 1937, he was treasurer of the Philippine Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (PAMEE). By 1939, Daza was receiving one of the highest salaries in the Philippines at ₱1,000.

By 1937, Daza had been a consulting electrical engineer for the Philippine Army for some time, he was formally announced to be Captain of the Signal Corps for the Philippine Army



on June 15, 1937, under the command of Lt. Col. Paciano Tangco. In 1945, Daza worked with the United States Army Signal Corps (USASC) to survey the extent of the destruction of PLDT's telephone communications infrastructure in Manila. Daza reported that three of PLDT's central exchanges in Santa Cruz, Malate, and Pasay were destroyed by the Japanese.

In June 1947, the Electrical Engineering Law, Republic Act 184, was passed in the Congress of the Philippines and Daza was appointed as the chairman of the Board of Electrical Engineering Examiners that Article 1 Section 2 of the Act established. Due to propriety, as the examiner chairman, Daza issued license number 001 to himself, making himself the first Filipino licensed electrical engineer.

From 1946 to 1951, Daza was the Assistant Chief Examiner and engineering consultant for the US-Philippine War Damage Commission (PWDC). Daza was also the liaison officer for Gen. Douglas MacArthur for the PWDC.

In the late 40's, under President Elpidio Quirino, Daza was tasked with engineering two hydroelectric dams in the Benguet province along the Agno River. The dams became known as Ambuklao Dam, which was opened in 1956, and Binga Dam, which opened in 1960. Daza would bring his grandson Gabriel "Bong" Daza III when he put up power plants in Marina Cristina, Northern Mindanao; Bunga, Cebu province; and Angat, Bulacan Province.

In 1961, Daza retired as Vice-President and Treasurer of PLDT.<sup>[6]</sup> In 1962, he co-founded the Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Co. (PT&T) and served as a member of the Board of Directors until as late as 1992.

On November 12, 1985, Daza and Quezon City Mayor Adelina Santos Rodriguez sponsored the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines Inc. (IIEE) Building Cornerstone for a new IIEE Headquarters.

In his life, Daza was honoured with lifetime memberships in three industry societies: the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines Inc. (IIEE).

In 1928, Daza registered to be a member of the Cebu Council, Boy Scouts of America. On October 31, 1936, Daza and the other Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) founders officially chartered the BSP in Commonwealth Act No. 111 authorized by President Manuel Quezon. Later, he was appointed as Secretary of the Boy Scout Foundation by Joseph Stevenot and served in the BSP's National Executive Board.

### **Post-World War II**

Following World War II, out of the seven Charter members, Stevenot and General Vicente Lim were casualties of the war. Arsenio Luz and Manuel Camus were occupied in post-war reconstruction. Jorge Vargas was facing charges for collaboration with the Japanese (later cleared), and General Carlos Romulo was working on the formation and establishment of the United Nations. This left Daza as the sole charter member available to build the fledgling organisation in the aftermath of the war.

As a member of the US-Philippine War Damage Commission (PWDC), Daza acquired a donation for a furnished Quonset hut including office equipment for the first BSP national office which was established at the Mehan Gardens.

In 1947, the BSP National Council elected Daza Treasurer. In 1949, after Camus' passing, Vargas became President and worked with Daza to establish firm financial foundations for the BSP through lobbying. This included the original Sweepstakes law which helped finance the operations of the BSP and several other organisations including the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP), the Philippines National Red Cross, the Philippines Tuberculosis Society Inc., among others. In 1949, Daza and Vargas lobbied the passing of *Republic Act No. 397 An Act Granting the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Ten Thousand Hectares of Public Agricultural Land for Additional Support and Maintenance of Said Corporation*, this act was used to acquire campsites and council offices throughout the country. The act was the basis of a later 6,000 hectare BSP Land Grant in Asuncion, Davao, and Manila. As treasurer, Daza was responsible for determining a suitable site for the BSP national office. He gave the BSP Board three choices: the Bordner School (now the Manila Science High School), the City Court site adjacent to Manila City Hall, and the US Army Hospital site which was also a Quonset hut. The Board chose the US Army Hospital which is where the present national office is situated. In 1952, Daza surprised the BSP board by announcing his husbandry of BSP finances made viable the start of construction of the BSP national office building. Daza attained the services of architect Juan Nakpil for the BSP national office building's design and plans, and Gonzalo G. Puyat & Sons, Baughman and Arte Español for the furnishings.

### **President and Chief Scout**

Daza began serving as acting President and Chief Scout in 1951, while the incumbent President and Chief Scout Jorge B. Vargas was concurrently serving the position and as a member of the World Scout Committee. In 1961, he was elected to succeed Jorge B. Vargas. Daza retired as President and Chief Scout in 1968.

As an avid gardener and orchid fancier, nearly everyday Daza would inspect and prune the BSP grounds with the sole BSP gardener nicknamed Tek, and would often plant trees and flowering plants. Throughout the 1960s, Daza had PEMCO employees and Boy Scouts plant 1 million trees around the Angat Water Reservoir.

The BSP were put in charge of managing the Makiling National Scout Reservation at Mount Makiling. Daza hired an agriculturist to not only support training and camping but also to plant bananas and set up a piggery.

### **11th World Scout Jamboree**

Main articles: 11th World Scout Jamboree Memorial Rotonda and United Arab Airlines Flight 869 (1963)

Daza at the 11th World Scout Jamboree Memorial

In 1963, Daza, several other BSP officials and 3 scouts of the BSP delegation opted for an earlier flight to Greece for the 11th World Scout Jamboree. This decision saved their lives as the bulk of the BSP delegation died with the crash of United Arab Airlines Flight 869.

### **Reorganization**

In 1985, President Marcos questioned the BSP Constitution, bylaws and provisions in the BSP charter in Commonwealth Act No. 111. On September 19, 1985, President Marcos issued Letter of Instruction no. 1481, declaring all positions in the BSP vacant. President Marcos

appointed Daza as Chairman for a Temporary Executive Committee tasked to reorganize the BSP.

### **Gabriel A. Daza Award**

The BSP Quezon Council annually award ten outstanding KAB Scouts the Gabriel A. Daza Award based on a point system considering the level and number of scouting activities they have participated in, number of scout of the year awards, and membership advancement. As of 2020, the award requires a minimum of 150 points out of a potential 240.

### **Political career**

My motto in life is this: Do my duty to God and all the people at the same time  
- Don Gabriel, 1991 PERCEPTION

In 1920, Daza was superintendent and special representative of the U.S. House of Representatives Philippine Resident Commissioner Jaime C. de Veyra for the Philippines' participation in the Missouri School of Journalism's Journalism Week. Throughout the week speakers and performers promoted Filipino history, products and resources, including Filipino food, dress and an orchestra sent from the Philippines. The Made-in-the-Philippines Banquet, held on 7 May 1920, was the final event of Journalism week and took place at the Rothwell Gymnasium of the University of Missouri. The Banquet was headed by Vice-Governor of the Philippines Charles E. Yeater, Philippine Senate President Manuel L. Quezon, and U.S. House of Representatives Philippine Resident Commissioner Jaime C. de Veyra.

Daza never held an elected position in government office. However, he was respected and trusted by several Presidents who appointed him to positions within government companies and committees.

1945, President Osmeña appointed Daza to be a member of the Board of Directors of both the Manila Railroad Company.

#### Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

July 25, 1945, President Osmeña appointed Daza to be chairman of the Petroleum Products Control Board.

August 2, 1945, President Osmeña appointed Daza to be a member of the National Power Corporation Board.

1945, Vice-President and Managing Director of Rehabilitation of the Manila Hotel Company.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

1946, Chairman of the Housing Committee of the Joint RP-US Executive Committee for the inauguration of the Philippine Republic.

1950, Vice-Chairman of the National Power Corporation.

1950, Member of the Board of directors of the Manila Hotel Company.

May 14, 1952, President Quirino appointed Daza to be a founding member of the board of directors of the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation.

1956, President and director of the National Economic Protection Agency (NEPA).

1956, Member of the Coordinating Council on Economic Nationalism.

1958, Member of the Rice and Corn Production Council.

1958, Member of the Jose Rizal Centennial Commission.

1963, Member of the Board of Censors for moving pictures.

1985, President Marcos appointed Daza as Chairman for a Temporary Executive Committee tasked to reorganize the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

In 1946, as Vice-President and Managing Director of Rehabilitation of the Manila Hotel, Daza was sent to the United States for procurement. He spent two months in Los Angeles, with around a \$100,000 budget, buying and ordering furniture and utilities for the rehabilitation of the Manila Hotel.

### **Other works**

Daza was a member of the Executive Committee for the 33rd International Eucharistic Congress (IEC), which was held in Manila 3–7 February 1937. Daza was the chairman of Illumination Committee for the 33rd IEC.

In 1938, Daza was a Director of the Philippine Wax Products Co.

In 1939, Daza was the Directorate of the Ateneo Alumni Association, Directorate of Catholic Action, Reserve Officer in the Signal Corps of the Philippine Army, a member in the Knights of Rizal and Knights of Columbus, and assisted with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes and Philippine Exposition.

In 1946, Daza was a Director of the Philippine Trust Company.

In 1947, Daza founded the Philippine National Red Cross. In 1951, Daza was the Assistant-Treasurer of the Philippine National Red Cross.

From 1955 to 1956, Daza was a member of the Executive Committee of the Second National Eucharistic Congress of the Philippines which was held in 1956, in Manila, from 28 November to 2 December. Daza and fellow boy scout and electrical engineer Hermenegildo B. Reyes were in charge of planning the event. As electrical engineers Daza and Reyes also managed the lighting and P.A. system for the event.

In 1965, Daza was a member of the Executive Board for the United Nations Association of the Philippines. Daza participated in the First Asian Conference on Industrialization held during the period 6 to 20 December 1965 at Manila. Daza attended as a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) observer delegation.

### **Death**

Daza died in Quezon City, Philippines on May 18, 1994, at the age of 98. Prior to his death, Daza stated that he had a pending application with the Society of Jesus so that when he died he could be buried a Jesuit.

I'd like to be remembered as a good Christian who served God and country well.

- Don Gabriel, 1991 PERCEPTION

### **Personal life**

Daza married Angeles Rosales Ortega on July 8, 1922, in Calbayog, Samar. Daza later moved to Cebu City around 1923. In Cebu City, Daza fathered his first four children Beatriz Daza Orendain, Gabriel Daza Jr., David Daza and Rodolfo Daza. Daza later moved to Manila between 1930 and 1935. In Manila, Daza fathered Elena Daza Valenzuela, Teresa Daza Baltazar and Francisco Daza.

His eldest son and namesake Gabriel Daza Jr. became a lawyer and married celebrity chef Nora Villanueva-Daza.

### **Awards and honors**

My biggest achievement in life has been this - having served God Faithfully.



- Don Gabriel on his honors, 1991 PERCEPTION

**The Philippines:**

Supreme Exchequer and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

**Holy See:**

Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester, knighted by Pope Pius XII in 1947.

Knight Commander with Star Order of St. Sylvester, awarded by Pope John XXIII in 1960.

**United Nations Association of the Philippines:**

General Carlos P. Romulo (CPR) Award

**Boy Scouts:**

Bronze Wolf awarded by the World Scout Conference in 1965

Silver Tamaraw (BSP)

Mount Makiling Award (BSP)

Tanglaw ng Kabataan Award (BSP) in 1986

Golden Pheasant (Japan)

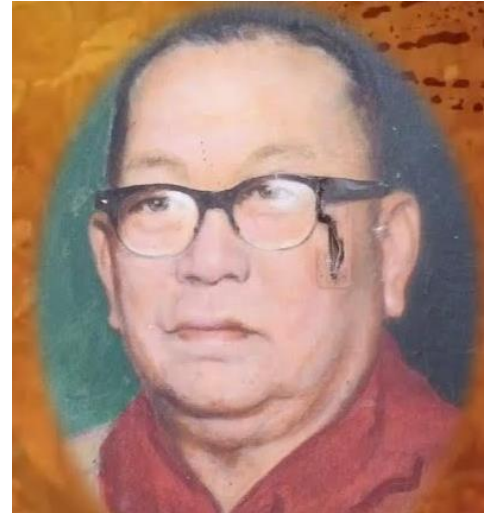
Cruz de Merito (Venezuela)

Silver Tiki (New Zealand)

Mugunghwa Gold Medal (South Korea)

## ARSENIO NICASIO LUZ Y KATIGBAK

Arsenio N. Luz (December 14, 1888 – 1966) was a Filipino showman, businessman, journalist and educator, remembered for being the General-Director of the Philippine Carnival which ran the Manila Carnival. He was an attaché for several Philippine Independence Missions to the U.S. as the representative of the press. He led trade negotiations during the transition to the Commonwealth and served as President Manuel L. Quezon's economic advisor at Malacañang throughout the Commonwealth Period. He was a charter member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and the first Filipino President of the Rotary Club of Manila. He was manager of the Philippine Government Commercial Agency's New York branch and represented the Philippines at several conventions and expositions.



Luz was born on December 14, 1888, to Don Manuel Metra de San Miguel-Luz and Doña Segunda Solis Katigbak, best known as the first love of José Rizal, in Lipa in Batangas province, which had become a city earlier that year.

Luz graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Liceo de Manila (Manila Central University) and studied law in the Escuela Derecho de Manila. While working for the Philippine Government in New York he took a special course in advanced journalism at Columbia University.

### CAREER

Luz worked at El Renacimiento, and La Vanguardia. From 1913 to 1915 Luz was a professor and head of the Spanish department at the University of the Philippines. He later became editor of the Nacionalista Party's official news organ El Ideal.

In 1919, the Philippine Government sent Luz to the United States to work as a commercial agent and manager in the Philippine Government Commercial Agency, in the Marble Palace 280 Broadway, Manhattan, New York City. Luz served under James J. Rafferty, the director of the agency.

On December 19, 1919, at the New York Agency of the Philippine National Bank, Luz was one of some fifty business men to meet Jaime de Veyra and Teodoro Yangco, the Resident Commissioners of Philippines who represented the Philippines in the U.S. House of Representatives, in order to develop and establish the new Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce. Luz was one of four men appointed to nominate twelve directors for the Chamber and propose a means of the Chambers functioning. The other three men were Charles C. Robinson, vice-president of the Philippines National Bank; Charles D. Orth, of Hanson and Orth; and B. E. Reuter.

As manager of the Philippine Government Commercial Agency, Luz represented the Philippines at the 1920 Foreign Trade Convention of San Francisco. In 1921, he was sent to London, to represent the Philippines at the Tropical Products Exposition

### RETURN TO PHILIPPINES

#### Manila Carnival

In 1922, Luz returned to the Philippines after being appointed editor and manager of The Philippines Herald and Director-General of the Philippine Carnival. The Philippine Carnival ran

the Manila Carnival. Luz succeeded Jorge B. Vargas, who held the position for a year. In 1932, Luz was recognized as a Publicity Leader in the Philippines due to his position of Director General of the Philippine Carnival which made Philippine progress internationally known. He served as Director-General for 17 of the company's 31 years, until the Carnivals ended in 1939. For his work as the Director General of the Philippine Exposition Inc. Luz was listed as a Manila leading Businessman in Miguel Cornejo's 1939 Commonwealth Directory.

### **Business Ventures**

Throughout the 1930s Luz became involved in several in several industries. From 1933 to 1941, Luz was a Principal of the Jacob Rosenthal & Co., Inc. In 1934, Luz was an incorporator of the Provident Insurance Company. In 1937, Luz was an incorporator of the Pan-Asiatic Broadcasting System, Inc which manufactured and operated radio transmitters and receivers. In 1938, Luz became a member of the National Produce Exchange in Manila. From 1938 to 1941, Luz was the General Agent of the National Life Insurance Company of the Philippines.

From 1935 to 1941, Luz was involved in numerous oil and mining companies as a director or incorporator. Companies included Filipinas Mining Corporation, Far East Oil Development Company, Land Surveys and Registration Inc, South Tayabas Oil Company, Inc, Mindanao Oil Company, Inc., Mineral and Commercial Development Company, O.R.O. Oil Company, South Cebu Oil Company, Inc., and the Sterling & Company, Inc.

In 1941, Luz's article *If We Want to Avoid a Collapse* was published in the 1940-1941 annual issue of *The Commercial & Industrial Manual of the Philippines*.

### **POLITICAL CAREER**

#### **Philippine Independence**

In 1919, Luz as editor of *El Ideal*, was an attaché of the First Parliamentary Mission of the Independence Missions to the United States, serving as the representative of the press. The mission was led by Senate President Manuel Quezon, and received approval from U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. The missions wishes for independence were reiterated by Wilson to the U.S. Congress the following year but no action was taken. Luz continued to participate in Independence Missions joining in the Second Mission (1921-1922) and Sixth Mission (1927).

"America, with pride, can present to humanity a magnificent colonial handiwork, the product of America's unique colonial policy-a country inhabited by eleven million people who owe their economic progress to the political instrumentalities given them. For the greatest instrument of economic progress is political autonomy-and this America has proven in her experiment in the Philippines"

#### **Arsenio N. Luz, Philippine Economic Development Under American Sovereignty**

In April 1920, as manager of the Philippine Government Commercial Agency in New York, Luz published *Philippine Economic Development Under American Sovereignty* in the Bankers' Magazine Periodical Vol. 100 Iss. 4. His article was split into five sections and explained the Philippine Economy to an American business audience, the first section was on the limited American knowledge of the Philippines; the second was on how trade has increased; the third was on growth of the Philippine National Bank; the fourth was on the money circulation; and the final section was on and trade with other countries.

In 1931, Governor-General of the Philippines Dwight Davis appointed Luz commissioner general of the Philippine commission to the 1931 Paris Colonial Exposition. On July 18, 1931,

the Philippine commission, along with prominent members of the Filipino community in Paris, held a banquet honouring the United States commission, the French exposition authorities, and "representatives of all countries participating in the exposition." The Philippine commission's farewell ceremony included a formal presentation of material to the Paris Permanent Colonial Museum (now known as the *Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration*), and a luncheon held by the Philippine commission at the Restaurant Bagdad. In 1932, for his assistance at the Colonial Exposition and as representative of The Philippines, Luz was conferred the rank of officer in the French Legion of Honour, France's highest order of merit.

In 1933 Luz managed the first National Charity Sweepstakes with Jorge B. Vargas and Isaac Barza.

On August 3, 1934, Luz led a group of Filipino, and Filipino-American businessmen and politicians to retain free trade with the United States during and after the transition to Philippine independence. The group also sought to amend the Tydings-McDuffie Independence Act. Specifically, calling to replace the limitations act on Philippine imports in the United States, with more liberal economic provisions during the transition period. At the signing Luz asserted that the Philippines industry and trade were facing "tragedy and seemingly unavoidable disaster."

Arenio Luz is quoted to have said "Independence is dead" during a Rotary Club speech shortly before the independence debate that led to Philippine Independence restarted in the U.S. Congress.

### **Commonwealth of the Philippines**

Luz served as an economic adviser at Malacañang throughout the Commonwealth period and took up several appointed positions. He was a member of the Commonwealth of the Philippines Inauguration Committee which organized the 1935 Inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, the committee was led by Senator Teofilo Sison. Luz was Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Press and served as a member on the Subcommittee Program and Ceremonies and Subcommittee on Inaugural Parade. In 1936, Luz was part of the Commonwealth Anniversary Committee led by Elpidio Quirino, celebrating the first anniversary of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. He also served President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, organizer of the Philippine-American Trade Association. On October 31, 1936, Luz and the other Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) founders officially chartered the BSP in Commonwealth Act No. 111 authorized by President Manuel Quezon. In 1939, Luz served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Manila Hotel Company.

### **Japanese occupation**

During Japanese occupation of the Philippines, on December 4, 1942, Luz was made Secretary-Treasurer of KALIBAPI the sole political party during Japanese occupation. On May 4, 1942, Luz was appointed Director of the Philippine Red Cross for a one-year term.

U.S. Army Intelligence during the war wrote that on January 18, 1944, President Laurel established a Bureau of Information and appointed Luz as its head. A position with the rank and salary of a Minister of State. The Bureau was established to "sell the new Japanese-backed Republic to the Filipino people" through "controlling, directing, supervising and coordinating all information or publicity activities of the government." The Bureau would edit and publish the Official Gazette.



The U.S. Army wrote a brief profile on Luz explaining why Laurel chose him for the Bureau position.

*Laurel picked a man who has a reputation for being a rather popular figure, particularly among businessman. Luz before the war served as head of the Philippine Carnival Association, was a high figure in Rotary circles, and in demand as a speaker. He is mostly Spanish, perhaps one-fourth Filipino. He was a neighbor and good friend of Laurel for a number of years. His principal role in the New Order before this has been as an Assistant Chairman of the Kalibapi.*

### **Post World War II**

On November 18, 1946, President Roxas appointed Luz to the newly formed the Surplus Property Commission. Tasked with handling the surplus property procured by Title 2 of the Philippine Rehabilitation act of 1946. Following Roxas' untimely death, President Quirino replaced Luz with the Hon. José Zulueta for the Surplus Property Commission.

In 1953, Luz was Director-General of the Philippines International Fair, Inc. and announced the Philippine Government's 1954 16-day national fair. As Director-General Luz managed the Philippines World Fair, the first World Fair to be held in the South Pacific. The fair featured Hawaiian showman E.K. Fernandez.

### **SCOUTING**

In 1928, Luz registered to be a member of the Cebu Council, Boy Scouts of America. On October 31, 1936, Luz and the other Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) founders officially chartered the BSP in Commonwealth Act No. 111 authorized by President Manuel Quezon. Later, he was appointed as Secretary of the Boy Scout Foundation by Joseph Stevenot and served in the BSP's National Executive Board.

### **Personal life**

On September 30, 1926, Luz married Carmen Albert, the eldest child of the then Head of Pediatrics at University of the Philippines Dr. José Albert.

### **Awards and honors**

 **France:**



Officer of the Legion of Honour.

### **Legacy**

Negros sugar planter Roman Lacson named his son Arsenio H. Lacson after Arsenio Luz, for his admiration of Luz as a journalist. Arsenio H. Lacson would go on to become the 15th Mayor of Manila and the first Manila mayor to be reelected to three terms.

## CARLOS PEÑA ROMULO SR.

*In this Philippine name, the middle name or maternal family name is Peña and the surname or paternal family name is Romulo.* QSC GCS CLH NA GCrM GCrGH KGCR (January 14, 1899 – December 15, 1985) was a Filipino diplomat, statesman, soldier, journalist and author. He was a reporter at the age of 16, a newspaper editor by 20, and a publisher at 32. He was a co-founder of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, a general in the US Army and the Philippine Army, university president, and president of the United Nations General Assembly.



He has been named as one of the Philippines's national artists in literature, and was the recipient of many other honors and honorary degrees.

Romulo believed in anti-colonialism and internationalism, as well as held Pro-American, anti-communist, anti-fascist, and economically and politically liberal beliefs.

### CAREER

Carlos Romulo was born in Tayabas City on January 14, 1899.<sup>[1]</sup> His parents were Pangasinense. His father fought against the US in the Philippine-American War.<sup>[1]</sup> His father transitioned to working for the US government in the Philippines after the war, rising through the ranks as town councilor, mayor, and eventually the governor of Tarlac province.

He studied at the Camiling Central Elementary School during his basic education.

Romulo became a professor of English at the University of the Philippines in 1923. Simultaneously, Romulo served as the secretary to the president of the Senate of the Philippines, Manuel Quezon.

During the 1930s, Romulo became the publisher and editor of *The Philippines Herald*, and one of his reporters was Yay Panlilio. On October 31, 1936, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) was given a legislative charter under Commonwealth Act No. 111. Romulo served as one of the vice presidents of the organization.

At the start of World War II, Romulo, a major, served as an aide to General Douglas MacArthur. He was one of the last men evacuated from the Philippines before the surrender of US Forces to the invading Japanese, as illness had prevented him from departing with MacArthur, finally leaving from Del Monte Airfield on Mindanao on April 25. Active in propaganda efforts, particularly through the lecture circuit, after reaching the United States, he became a member of President Quezon's War Cabinet, being appointed Secretary of Information in 1943. He reached the rank of general by the end of the war.

Romulo supported Philippine independence. As the US had promised Philippine independence in the Jones Act of 1916, Romulo believed that independence was inevitable. Romulo tended to portray American imperialism in a favorable light compared to European imperialism.

### **Diplomatic career**

Romulo served eight Philippine presidents, from Manuel L. Quezon to Ferdinand Marcos, as the secretary of foreign affairs of the Philippines and as the country's representative to the United States and to the United Nations (UN). He also served as the resident commissioner to the U.S. House of Representatives during the Commonwealth era. In addition, he served also as the secretary of education in President Diosdado P. Macapagal's and President Ferdinand E. Marcos's cabinet through 1962 to 1968.

### **Resident commissioner**

Romulo served as resident commissioner of the Philippines to the United States Congress from 1944 to 1946. This was the title of the non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives for lands taken in the Spanish–American War, and as such, he is the only member of the U.S. Congress to end his tenure via a legal secession from the union. United Nations.

In his career in the UN, Romulo was a strong advocate of human rights, freedom, and decolonization. In 1948, at the third UN General Assembly in Paris, France, he strongly disagreed with a proposal made by the Soviet delegation headed by Andrei Vishinsky, who challenged his credentials by insulting him with this quote: "You are just a little man from a little country." In return, Romulo replied, "It is the duty of the little Davids of this world to fling the pebbles of truth in the eyes of the blustering Goliaths and force them to behave!", leaving Vishinsky with nothing left to do but sit down.

### **Palestine partition plan**

In the days preceding the UN General Assembly vote on the Partition Plan for Palestine in 1947, Romulo stated "We hold that the issue is primarily moral. The issue is whether the United Nations should accept responsibility for the enforcement of a policy which is clearly repugnant to the valid nationalist aspirations of the people of Palestine. The Philippines Government holds that the United Nations ought not to accept such responsibility." Thus, he clearly intended to oppose the partition plan, or at most abstain in the vote. However, pressure on the Philippines government from Washington led to Romulo being recalled, and was replaced by a Philippines representative who voted in favor of the partition plan.

### **President of the UN General Assembly.**

Romulo served as the president of the fourth session of UN General Assembly from 1949 to 1950—the first Asian to hold the position—and served as president of the UN Security Council four times, twice in 1957, 1980 and 1981. He had served with General MacArthur in the Pacific, and became the first non-American to win the Pulitzer Prize in Correspondence in 1942. The Pulitzer Prize website states that Carlos P. Romulo was awarded "for his observations and forecasts of Far Eastern developments during a tour of the trouble centers from Hong Kong to Batavia".

### **Campaign for Secretary-General**

Romulo ran for the office of UN secretary-general in the 1953 selection. He fell two votes short of the required seven-vote majority in the Security Council, finishing second to Lester B. Pearson of Canada. His ambitions were further dashed by negative votes from France and the Soviet Union, both of whom were permanent members with veto power. The Security Council eventually settled on a dark horse candidate and selected Dag Hammarskjöld to be UN secretary-general.

## **Ambassador to the United States**

From January 1952 to May 1953, Romulo became the second former member of the Congress to become the ambassador to the United States from a foreign country, following Joaquín M. Elizalde, who had been his immediate predecessor in both posts. He later served as ambassador again from September 1955 to February 1962.

## **Return to the Philippines**

### **Philippine presidential aspiration**

Romulo returned to the Philippines and was a candidate for the nomination as the presidential candidate for the Liberal Party, but lost at the party convention to the incumbent president, Elpidio Quirino. Quirino had agreed to a secret ballot at the convention, but after the convention opened, he demanded an open roll-call voting, leaving the delegates no choice but to support Quirino, the candidate of the party machine. Feeling betrayed, Romulo left the Liberal Party and became national campaign manager of Ramon Magsaysay, the candidate of the opposing Nacionalista Party, who won the election in 1953.

Romulo, portrait by Soshana, oil on canvas, 1945Ang Paglulunsad Memorial, Lingayen, Pangasinan. Carlos P. Romulo launched on January 10, 1945, Philippine and Pacific troops to liberate Luzon

## **Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Romulo served as the Philippines' secretary (minister from 1973 to 1984) of foreign affairs under President Elpidio Quirino from 1950 to 1952, under President Diosdado Macapagal from 1963 to 1964, and under President Ferdinand Marcos from 1968 to 1984. In April 1955, he led the Philippines' delegation to the Asian-African Conference at Bandung, Indonesia.

## **Resignation from the Marcos cabinet**

Romulo supported President Ferdinand Marcos through most of his presidency. However, he resigned in 1983, soon after the assassination of Benigno Aquino, citing poor health. Gregorio Brillantes interviewed Romulo in 1984, and Romulo said he resigned "heartsick" because of the assassination of Aquino, whom he considered a "friend", and the resulting freefall of the Philippines' economy and international reputation.

According to Romulo's wife, Beth Day Romulo, the Marcos administration had asked him to sign an advertisement that the administration was planning to place in the *New York Times* and other major international dailies. Romulo refused to sign the advertisement and instead resigned.

## **Death**

Romulo died, aged 87, in Manila on December 15, 1985, and was buried in the Heroes' Cemetery (Libingan ng mga Bayani) at Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila. He was honored as "one of the truly great statesmen of the 20th century". In 1980, he was extolled by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim as "Mr. United Nations" for his valuable services to the UN and his dedication to freedom and world peace.

## **Published books**

Romulo, in all, wrote and published 22 books, including *The United* (novel), *I Walked with Heroes* (autobiography), *I Saw the Fall of the Philippines*, *Mother America*, and *I See the*



*Philippines Rise* (war-time memoirs). In 1982, he was proclaimed a National Artist for Literature of the Philippines, in recognition of his contributions to Philippine Literature.

## Honors

National Honors

Quezon Service Cross – (April 17, 1951)

Grand Collar of the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Raja – (1982).

Philippine Legion of Honor, Commander (*Komandante*)

National Artist of the Philippines

Grand Cross (*Dakilang Kamanong*) of the Gawad Mabini – (2005)

Grand Cross (*Maringal na Krus*) of the Order of the Golden Heart – (1954)

Member (*Kagawad*) of the Order of the Golden Heart – (13 September 1954)

Presidential Medal of Merit – (July 3, 1949)

Order of the Knights of Rizal, Knight Grand Cross of Rizal. – (1961)

*Bayani ng Bagong Republika* (Hero of the New Republic Award) – (14 January 1984)

Military Medals (Philippines)

Distinguished Service Star

Philippine Gold Cross

Philippine Defense Medal

Philippine Liberation Medal

Military Medals (Foreign)

Commander, Legion of Merit

Silver Star

Purple Heart

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

Foreign Honors

Cuba: Grand Cross, Order of Carlos Manuel do Cespedes

Greece: Grand Cross, Order of the Phoenix

Portugal: Grand Cross, Military Order of Christ

Spain: Knight Grand Cross (*Caballeros Gran Cruz*), Order of Isabella the Catholic

United States: Presidential Medal of Freedom

Taiwan: Grand Cordon, Order of Brilliant Star

## Awards and recognitions

Gen. Romulo (3d from R), as President of the United Nations General Assembly, talks with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

Romulo is perhaps among the most decorated Filipinos in history. He has been awarded 72 honorary degrees from different international institutions and universities and 144 awards and decorations from foreign countries:

Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 1952 "For his contribution in international cooperation, in particular on questions on undeveloped areas, and as president for UN's 4th General Assembly"

Boy Scouts of America Silver Buffalo Award

Presidential Unit Citation with Two Oak Leaf Clusters

Pulitzer Prize in Correspondence, 1942

World Government News First Annual Gold Nadal Award (for work in the United Nations for peace and world government), March 1947

Princeton University – Woodrow Wilson Memorial Foundation Gold Medal award ("in recognition of his contribution to public life"), May 1947

International Benjamin Franklin Society's Gold Medal (for "distinguished world statesmanship in 1947"), January 1948  
Freeman of the City of Plymouth, England, October 1948  
United Nations Peace Medal  
World Peace Award  
Four Freedoms Peace Award  
Notre Dame University, Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), 1935  
Georgetown University, Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), 1960  
Harvard University, Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), 1950

### **Anecdotes from Beth Romulo through Reader's Digest (June 1989)**

At the third UN General Assembly, held in Paris in 1948, the USSR's deputy foreign minister, Andrei Vyshinsky, sneered at Romulo and challenged his credentials: "You are just a little man from a little country." "It is the duty of the little Davids of this world," cried Romulo, "to fling the pebbles of truth in the eyes of the blustering Goliaths and force them to behave!"

During his meeting with Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Marshal Tito welcomed Gen. Romulo with drinks and cigars, to which the general kindly refused. Their conversation went as follows:

Tito: "Do you drink?"

Romulo: "No, I don't."

Tito: "Do you smoke?"

Romulo: "No, thank you."

Tito: "What do you do then?"

Romulo: "I etcetera."

At this, Marshal Tito was tickled by his reply and loudly exclaimed around the room, "I etcetera, etcetera, etcetera!"

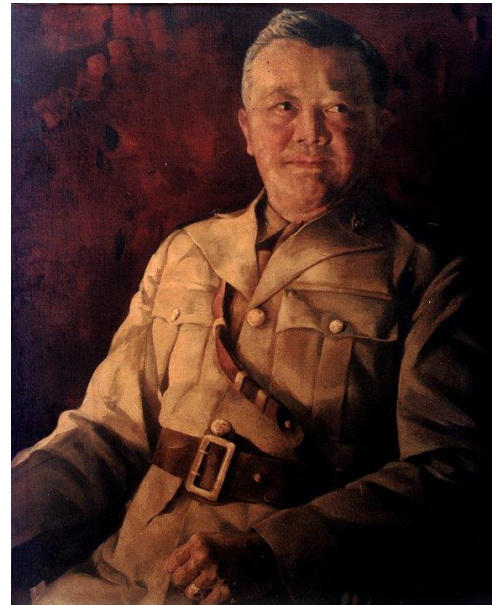
Romulo was a dapper little man (barely five feet four inches in shoes). When they waded in at Leyte beach in October 1944, and the word went out that General MacArthur was waist deep, one of Romulo's journalist friends cabled, "If MacArthur was in water waist deep, Romulo must have drowned!"

In later years, Romulo told another story himself about a meeting with MacArthur and other tall American generals who disparaged his physical stature. "Gentlemen," he declared, "When you say something like that, you make me feel like a dime among nickels."

## VICENTE PODICO LIM

*In this Spanish name, the first or paternal surname is Lim and the second or maternal family name is Podico.*

Vicente Lim y Podico (February 24, 1888 – December 31, 1944) was a Filipino brigadier general and World War II hero. Lim was the first Filipino graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point (Class of 1914). Prior to the establishment of the Philippine Army, he served as an officer in the Philippine Scouts (a now-defunct native Filipino unit of the US Army). During the Battle of Bataan, Lim was the Commanding General of the 41st Infantry Division, Philippine Army (USAFPE). After the fall of the Philippines he contributed to the Filipino resistance movement until his capture and subsequent execution.



Lim was one of the seven Charter Members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He is memorialized in the Philippines' 1,000-Peso banknote together with two other Filipino heroes who fought and died against the Japanese during the Second World War.

### Early life and education

Vicente Lim was born on February 24, 1888, in the town of Calamba, Laguna, and was the third of Jose Ayala Lim Yaoco and Antonia Podico's four children. As a Chinese Filipino, His father was a full-blooded Sangley (Chinese migrant) who braided his hair in a queue, while his mother, Antonia Podico, was a Mestiza de Sangley (Chinese mestiza). Jose Lim died when Vicente was just nine years old, leaving Vicente's mother to raise him and his three siblings from the earnings of a small business. Vicente and the other Lim children, Joaquin, Olympia and Basilisa, like many Chinese Filipinos, grew up identifying themselves as Filipinos.

Among the friends of Jose Lim and Antonia Podico was the family of José Rizal, who was later recognized as the Philippines' national hero. The Lim Family, like the Rizal Family, leased land owned by the Dominican Order: rice lands in the Calamba barrios of Lecheria and Real and sugar land in Barrio Barandal. In 1891, recurring disputes between the Spanish administrators of the Dominican estate and the tenants over rental rates and conditions came to a head and resulted in the eviction of many tenants from their lands. Among the victims were the Lim and Rizal families.

Vicente completed grade school in Tanauan, Batangas.

### Philippine–American War

It was during the Philippine–American War where the fourteen-year-old Vicente's sense of nationalism and patriotism first came to the fore. It is said that he formed a group of children his age to act as couriers for the guerrilla movement of General Miguel Malvar's forces operating in the Calamba area.

### Philippine Normal School

In the period following the Philippine–American War, Vicente continued his studies at Liceo de Manila, and completed the teacher training program at the Philippine Normal School. He

went on to become a teacher in a public school in Santa Cruz, Manila for a year. He decided to pursue further studies and returned to Philippine Normal. Vicente was an outstanding student, getting top marks in mathematics, as well as in other subjects. He was as good an athlete as he was a student. Impressed by his athletic skills and intelligence, a supervisory teacher encouraged Vicente to take the entrance examinations for the United States Military Academy at West Point. While Vicente only placed second in these exams issued by the Philippine Bureau of Civil Service, his 99% score in Mathematics won him the coveted scholarship. In 1910, Vicente became the first Filipino to enter West Point.

### **Education at the United States Military Academy at West Point (1910–1914)**

"A birth date more amenable to Academy regulations"

Vicente Lim's admission to West Point was not without any hitches. Army records reflect his birth date as April 5, 1888. By the time Lim reported to the United States Military Academy on March 1, 1910, he had already passed his 22nd birthday, which made him technically ineligible to enter the academy. While Lim took the West Point qualifying examinations in 1908, which would have made him eligible to report to the academy in March 1909, it is likely that the process of shipping required documents back and forth across the Pacific simply took too long. It thus became necessary to "indulge in the time-honored practice of adopting a birth date more amenable to Academy regulations."

### **"Cannibal" Lim**

While Lim was the first Filipino to report to West Point, he was not the first foreign cadet to attend the academy. At that time however, foreign cadets were still an uncommon sight. When Lim arrived in the United States, he could hardly speak English. His skin was darker than that of his American classmates, who were largely ignorant about the Philippines and thought that the Philippine Islands were inhabited by savages. These factors (and perhaps the racial prejudices that were still prevalent during that period), earned Vicente the nickname "Cannibal".

### **Cadet life**

For the first Filipino cadets who entered West Point, there was little incentive to excel academically. Filipino products of the academy were restricted to entering service with the Philippine Scouts (then exclusively organized as an infantry unit) after graduation, whereas the regular privilege for top-ranking graduates was a choice of career path (engineers, coast artillery, cavalry and infantry, in the order of usual preference). Nonetheless, Lim was eager to prove that he was just as competent as any of his classmates. "Cannibal" Lim strove to overcome his deficiencies (linguistic, or otherwise) -- and did so. He soon earned the respect of his classmates as he survived his military engineering subjects, and he excelled in chemistry and mathematics. Vicente was also popular as he helped the class "goats" in their Spanish lessons, since Spanish was his second language. He also excelled in fencing and earned a spot on the academy's Broadsword Squad. For his skills on the firing range and proficiency in handling infantry weapons, he earned a badge as a Sharpshooter. The rigorous training at West Point ingrained into Vicente's very being the academy motto of "Duty, Honor and Country". This eventually became the dominating motivation in his life.

### **Fighting racial prejudice At West Point in 1914**

Vicente Lim was known to his classmates as a person who was very proud of his country and his people. He refused to tolerate any form of derogatory remarks against him and against Filipinos. As a prelude to his struggle for equal treatment of Filipinos in the Army later on in his career, Lim often responded to racial provocations in a personal, or even physical way.

These incidents often got him into trouble at the academy. It was something that continued right up until the days leading up to Lim's graduation from West Point. Manuel L. Quezon, then the Philippines' Resident Commissioner to the United States (he would later on become the president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines), visited West Point to attend Lim's graduation ceremonies. Upon Quezon's arrival, he was met by the underclass Filipino cadets there, whom Quezon went on to ask where Lim was. One of the cadets said that Lim was "walking the area" (a traditional form of punishment at West Point) because, "a professor said a derogatory remark concerning Asians and Lim defended us." To this, Quezon replied, "Lim is impetuous, but he certainly did the right thing."

### **The first Filipino graduate of West Point**

After four years and having survived all the rigors of West Point, Vicente Lim graduated from the United States Military Academy on June 12, 1914, ranking 77th in a class of 107. Graduating was in itself an achievement, as the class of 1914 originally started out with 133 cadets. Lim was the only foreign cadet to graduate that year, in a class that originally included one cadet from Cuba and another from Ecuador.

### **Early Military Career**

The outbreak of World War I and Lim's initial assignments

Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy, Vicente Lim was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Philippine Scouts. Prior to returning home to the Philippines, the young Lieutenant was sent to Europe to observe and study the set-up of the armies there. At the outbreak of the First World War, Lim was marooned in Berlin. To make his way back to the Philippines, Lim had to travel via the Trans-Siberian Railway, and had "quite an adventurous time making his way across Siberia."

Lim eventually made it back to the Philippines, and was given his first assignment with a Scout garrison in Fort San Pedro, Iloilo in Western Visayas. Lim was later assigned to the island fortress of Corregidor.

In 1916, Lim began teaching at the Academy for Officers of the Philippine Constabulary in Baguio City (the academy was later renamed the Philippine Constabulary Academy, and eventually evolved into the present-day Philippine Military Academy). Lim taught courses in Military Art, Military Law and Topography and also handled Equitation and Athletics. It was in Baguio that Vicente would meet and begin courting his future wife, Pilar Hidalgo, who was spending the summer at the Holy Family College. Pilar had gained distinction as one of the country's first female mathematicians and was the first female *Cum Laude* graduate of the University of the Philippines. (Pilar would also become known as a prominent civic leader, and one of the staunchest advocates of women's suffrage. Pilar later on became a co-founder of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines. She also became Centro Escolar University's third president after the death of Carmen de Luna and steered the university during the reconstruction and normalization of school operations after World War II.)

Vicente and Pilar met each other for a second time in April 1917, and their courtship continued. On the 6th of the same month, the United States ended its neutrality and declared its entry into World War I. The Militia Act (enacted 17 March 1917) called for the formation of 3 brigades for the mobilization of a Filipino division to prepare for combat in Europe. Ultimately, certain political considerations, as well as other numerous delays would push the physical mobilization of these Filipino units to October 1918. The First World War ended a month later, without any of these troops being shipped out. However, the uncertainty brought about by the situation then, forced Lim to press for a quick engagement

and an early wedding. A military wedding was held in Quiapo Church on August 12, 1917. Soon after the wedding, Lim and his bride departed for Jolo and later on, Zamboanga, where Lim was assigned.

### **First clash with General Douglas MacArthur and other controversies**

Just as he did during his days at West Point, Lim never hesitated to make his displeasure known towards unfair treatment and discrimination against Filipino officers on the basis of race. As early as 1914, Lim complained to Manuel L. Quezon about the "insults and petty harassment he had suffered because of his color". In 1922, as a captain stationed with the 45th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts at Fort McKinley (now Fort Bonifacio), Lim refused an order to transfer to Corregidor "when it became apparent that the reason for the order was to free living quarters at the Fort for incoming American officers." The Commanding General of the Scout Brigade at McKinley, General Douglas MacArthur, relented, and allowed Lim to remain at his post. It would not be the last time that Lim would clash with the army brass on similar issues.

The task of ensuring that Filipino officers were accorded equal treatment in terms of compensation, benefits, promotion and respect in the American Army engaged Lim intellectually and emotionally. So passionate was Lim about this that there is a story of him punishing a lower-ranking American serviceman who refused to salute him. To get his point across, (then) Major Lim ordered the American to face a hat stand where his Major's cap was hung and to continuously salute the cap until ordered to stop.

While Lim was mostly vocal on issues related to discrimination in the Army, he was equally vocal on the importance of maintaining a certain standard among its officer corps. He did not shy away from giving critiques of his fellow officers in the Philippine Scouts (Americans included) who were "unfit" to serve. In 1927, Lim wrote Major John Sullivan, assistant to General Frank McIntyre, the Bureau of Insular Affairs Chief: "I have many friends in the Scouts, but I can frankly state that as a whole they are the greatest handicap for the government ... The great majority of them are even disgusted with their own selves."

Lim was a staunch believer that the strength of any military organization was a function of the quality of its corps of officers. It was a cause he would continue to champion later on in his career, during the formation of the fledgling Philippine Army.

### **Further military education**

The passage of the National Defense Act of 1920 finally allowed Filipino officers to be assigned to various military schools in the United States for further military education. In 1926, Vicente Lim was assigned to the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. It was at Benning that Lim became classmates with Akira Nara, who would later on command the Japanese 65th Brigade, one of the Japanese Army's invading units during the Battle of Bataan (Lieutenant General Nara became notorious for having ordered the slaughter of over 350 men of the 91st Division, Philippine Army (USAFFE) ). Upon completion of his training at Benning, Lim was sent for further studies to the United States Army Command and General Staff College (USACGSC) at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

In 1928, Lim continued his extended stay in the United States, and he was subsequently assigned to the Army War College in Washington, D.C. As part of the coursework, then-Major Lim wrote a thesis in April 1929 entitled, "The Philippine Islands - A Military Asset". The paper was praised by the Commandant of the War College, Major General William D. Connor, as a "study of exceptional merit made at The Army War College". General Connor



would go on to forward the document to the War Plans Division, War Department General Staff for reference, "being of interest to that Division". As it would turn out, the paper would accurately predict the conduct of the campaign Japan would eventually launch against Filipino and American forces in the Philippines in 1941–1942.

These advanced courses enhanced Lim's knowledge of military science and further honed his keen military mind. At the outbreak of World War II, this same education and training would prove invaluable, as Lim was the only Filipino at that time to have attended the USACGSC and the Army War College. This made him the only Filipino General technically qualified to command a division.

### **Colegio de San Juan de Letran**

Lim returned to the Philippines in 1929 and was appointed the professor of military science and tactics (PMS&T) at Colegio de San Juan de Letran and raised the standards of the training program there.

### **Retirement from the US Army**

After more than 350 years of foreign rule and almost 40 years after the first declaration of Philippine independence at Kawit, Cavite, the Philippines took the penultimate step towards self-rule. On November 15, 1935, the Commonwealth of the Philippines was established. The first act of the Commonwealth Government, The National Defense Act or Commonwealth Act. No. 1 (enacted on December 21, 1935), laid out the country's National Defense Policy and established The Army of the Philippines, a force completely separate from that of the United States'.

Lim's West Point education and his completion of command and general staff programs in the United States, made him a natural nominee to aid in the establishment of a national defense system for the Philippines. However, Lim was faced with a dilemma: either to stay on with the US Army as a lieutenant colonel and complete the required tenure for a full pension, or to join the fledgling Philippine Army, sacrifice his tenure and get less pay. Lim ultimately decided to do the latter; he retired from the United States Army June 30, 1936. He joined the Philippine Army and was immediately given the rank of brigadier general.

### **Boy Scouts**

Lim (third from the right) founders of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. Stamp for National Boy Scout Movement 50th Anniversary, October 28, 1987

On October 31, 1936, Lim along with Col. Josephus Stevenot, Senator Manuel Camus, General Carlos Romulo, Executive Secretary Jorge Vargas, Don Gabriel Daza, and Arsenio Luiz, officially chartered the BSP in Commonwealth Act No. 111 authorized by President Manuel Quezon.

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines celebrate Lim's U.S. army records April 5 birthday as "Vicente Lim Day (1888)".

### **Formation of the Philippine Army**

Lim was appointed chief of the War Plans Division of the Central General Staff of the Philippine Army.

He was first assigned to the War Plans Division; quoting from his own letter, "Some of you who are on the inside of the War Department might have read my strategic reconnaissance of every corner of this country. I found that we have the manpower to defend our vital areas,

and God has given us the advantage of our natural terrain features to effectively give a nice showing against any first class power. But because of our lack of finance we are struggling hard economically to solve this problem".

On April 4, 1939, Lim became Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army of the Philippines. Like he did on issues of discrimination against Filipino soldiers in the US Army, Vicente clashed with MacArthur and other top brass on the strategy being employed in building up the country's National defense. He believed that it was being built up too rapidly with no solid foundation to stand on. Most of the officers and recruits were half-baked and poorly trained. This was in addition to the fact that at the very core of the Army's organization, there was rampant corruption. As a more convenient and cheaper way to build up the Philippine Army, the National Defense Act of 1935 re-designated the Brigadier General Vicente Lim Philippine Constabulary (then the country's national police force) to become nucleus of the new Army. This, in Vicente's view, was a fundamental mistake. Vicente believed that the Army should be built from the ground up, so that it may develop its own unique traditions, ideology and esprit de corps. This was also to ensure that none of the 'rotten eggs' and flawed systems from the PC would be perpetuated in the new Army. On many occasions, Vicente threatened to resign from the Army, on account of his disgust with the institution, and the fact that he was "surrounded by crooks," with "... no power nor influence to eliminate them".

### **World War II and the Battle of Bataan**

The formation and mobilization of the 41st Infantry Division, Philippine Army  
Integration into the USAFFE

Up until December 1941, the United States had carefully maintained its neutrality, even as Japanese forces continued to wage war on the Chinese mainland and as Adolf Hitler's U-Boats menaced merchant shipping in the Atlantic Ocean. While America avoided being in a state of open conflict with any state, it did support the war efforts of the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and China against the Axis Powers by sending weapons, supplies and materials under the Lend-Lease program. However, heightened tensions across the globe, deteriorating negotiations with Japan and the failure of all diplomatic efforts to halt Japanese aggression in the Far East, made it clear that it would only be a matter of time before the United States' involvement would entail more than just sending material aid to its allies. Japanese occupation of naval and air bases in Formosa and southern Indochina in July 1941, and the increasingly precarious situation and location of the Philippines (being in between Japan and the resource-rich Dutch East Indies), only added to the certainty that US interests in the Philippine Islands and the rest of the Pacific were directly under threat.

As early as 1906, American pre-war military planning – the reality of having to fight a two-front war – "Europe First" strategy, wherein it was deemed that (the need to defeat Nazi Germany first, while fighting a holding action against Japan in the Pacific), there was increased optimism among American military leaders regarding the feasibility of defending the Philippines against a Japanese invasion. Materials were also sent to the Philippines in an effort to protect American interests in the Islands and in the Far East.

On July 27, 1941, the USAFFE (United States Army Forces in the Far East) was created, leading to the integration of the Philippine Army into the USAFFE. During this transition, Lim stepped down as Deputy Chief of Staff to assume command of the 41st Infantry Division.

By September 1, 1941, the mobilization of the Philippine Army was in full swing, marking a significant step in its preparations.

In August 1941, as the threat of war loomed closer, President Manuel Quezon issued an order to place the Philippine Army and Philippine Constabulary under the command of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE). Even with the problems that plagued the Philippine Army, Vicente realized that the more imminent threat was the fact that there wasn't much time to mobilize a strong defense force for the country. Vicente knew that if the Japanese invaded, he could serve his country better by relinquishing his position as Deputy Chief of Staff (the second highest position in the Army) and assume a field command. He was eventually put in command of the 41st Infantry Division (PA). Recruits came from his home province of Laguna, as well as Rizal, Cavite, Quezon, and Marinduque. Almost all the men were awfully green and untested in combat.

The main cantonment area of the 41st Division was set up along the Tagaytay ridge (today, the 41st Division, PA, USAFFE Shrine in Tagaytay marks the general location of the division's camp).

### **Organization of the chain of command**

Consistent with his long-held belief that the strength of any military unit lies with the men that lead it, General Lim put a lot of thought into how the officers of the 41st Division were organized. He made it a point to get to know his men—their strengths, weaknesses, tendencies and personalities—and organized them, "according to the best principles of command"<sup>[1]</sup> and in a way he thought would work best in forging the 41st Division into an effective fighting unit. General Lim picked who he thought were the Army's best commanders. In cases where he felt that a commander was deficient in some of the requisite abilities or qualities, Lim assigned the best Executive Officers under them. For officers he knew to be effective in the field and were hard-working, but were somehow lacking in tact, he assigned subordinates whom he knew to be more effective communicators, to provide balance. General Lim also ensured that he picked the most competent Quartermasters for the Division, something that would prove invaluable during the battle that was forthcoming.

### **The outbreak of war and the withdrawal to Bataan**

The little training (or in many cases, no training at all) that the men of the nascent Philippine Army received between September 1941 and December 1941, would turn out to be all they would take to battle against the menace that was to befall the Philippine Islands. As late as December 1, 1941, only about two-thirds of the 41st Division had been called into active service. Only a few days later, on December 7, 1941 (December 8, 1941 in Asian time zones), Japan launched an attack on Pearl Harbor. Within a matter of hours of each other, Japanese forces also commenced attacks on Guam, Wake Island, the British crown colony of Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaya, and the Philippines.

### **Setting up defenses along the Batangas coastline**

General Douglas MacArthur's initial strategy for defending the Philippines was to stop the Japanese at the beaches at all costs (in contrast to the original War Plan Orange 3, which called for an immediate withdrawal to the Bataan Peninsula). He divided his command into the North Luzon Force, the South Luzon Force and the Visayan-Mindanao Force.

Brigadier General Vicente Lim's 41st Infantry Division was one of two divisions (along with the 51st Infantry Division, Philippine Army) assigned to the much smaller South Luzon Force under Brigadier General George M. Parker Jr. The South Luzon Force was assigned to defend the beaches south and east of Manila. Its mission was to protect the airfields in its sector and prevent hostile landings. The 41st Division's area of responsibility was the coastline

of Nasugbu, Batangas. There, General Lim's division dug in. Well-designed and organized defenses were set up by the division. However, the men eventually had to abandon the sector, as all units were ultimately ordered to begin withdrawal to Bataan.

At the very least, some of the nervous troops of the 41st were assured that their weapons worked, as turtles occasionally triggered improvised warning devices in the dark, causing troops along the line to fire at what they thought to be infiltrating Japanese.

### **The withdrawal to Bataan**

Despite the ten-hour window between the time news was received about the attack on Pearl Harbor and the first Japanese attacks on the Philippines, American and Filipino forces were still generally caught by surprise. Within hours, many airfields and naval stations were destroyed by Japanese air attacks. Many valuable American aircraft had been caught on the ground, and the bulk of those that survived the initial Japanese raids were sent south to Mindanao, en route to Australia. The US and Philippine Army units meant to contain hostile Japanese landings at the beaches were eventually overwhelmed by the initial Japanese onslaught.

It soon became apparent that a withdrawal to Bataan (as called for in War Plan Orange 3) was the best remaining option for Filipino and American forces, and from there, deny the use of Manila Bay by the Japanese. On December 24, 1941, USAFFE headquarters notified all unit commanders that "WPO-3 is in effect". With this, the withdrawal to the Bataan Peninsula began.

Like all other units, General Lim's 41st Division was given the order to move out of their positions along the Batangas coast and move out to Bataan that Christmas Eve. Almost all the USAFFE units which made a withdrawal from the beaches had to make a fighting retreat. General Lim's division however, in the course of its withdrawal from the Batangas coast to Bataan (through Manila), was fortunate not to have come in contact with any hostile forces. Thus, the Division entered Bataan intact.

### **Acquisition of supplies**

With the hurried withdrawal of the USAFFE to Bataan, the defenders had to deal with the unfortunate reality that much of their vital supplies simply could not be brought into the peninsula in time. Thus, historical accounts that discuss the Battle of Bataan invariably touch on the meager rations that all the Filipino and American defenders relied on during the course of the gallant stand.

Fortunately for the men of the 41st Division, their situation was slightly more favorable, at least during the initial phase of the battle. A paper written by Col. Juanito R. Rimando in 1978 described Brigadier General Vicente Lim as a commander who was "very particular about the Division's status on supplies and food". Ensuring that his men were well provided for started with choosing (in General Lim's own words) "the best Quartermaster" available. The Division Quartermaster chosen by General Lim before the war began was Juan O. Chioco, assisted by an equally able Executive Officer, Ernesto D. Rufino.

Taking a cue from their Commanding General, both Chioco and Rufino secured supplies on their own initiative, even if it meant not being totally dependent on the Division's "normal sources of supply". On December 28, 1941, there were rumors that the USAFFE had opened its depot in Angeles City and Army units were free to get all the supplies that they needed and could carry. Promptly, Chioco ordered Rufino to take 22 trucks to gather much-needed supplies. Rufino returned with the trucks the next day, hauling large quantities of food,

clothing, supplies and other equipment. The supplies were stored at the Balanga Sugar Central. A few days after, an American inspector from higher headquarters arrived at the 41st Division's quartermaster headquarters and was surprised with the large quantity of supplies the Division had. Apparently appalled by what he discovered, the inspector "accused Captain Chioco of hoarding while other units lacked these. He threatened to file court-martial charges against Chioco". The American officer took the matter to General Lim. The officer expected General Lim to side with him, but instead the General "bawled him out like hell and said ... that he's got no business interfering with the affairs of the Division, much more so on ... the way the supplies under question were procured." Rimando writes, "The American inspector left a more subdued individual".

The relatively better supply situation of the 41st Division is corroborated in memoirs written by other 41st Division veterans such as Captain Jose M. Zuño. On December 29, 1941, Zuño wrote, "BGen Vicente Lim, 41st Div Commanding Gen distributed bacon and Lucky Strikes cigarettes as Christmas presents, to the officers and men of the division." There can be little doubt that all these played an essential role in making the 41st Infantry Division one of the most effective fighting units during the Battle of Bataan.

### **The defense at Abucay**

"Lim is the hero of Bataan", states the *Philippine Army Bulletin* of April 1947, "General Lim's 41st Division made possible the Battle of Abucay, which I believe is the most decisive battle of Bataan. At Abucay the Japs for the first time met real opposition. . . Contact at Abucay was about 8 January 1942. The Japs, employing massed artillery followed closely by aggressive infantry action hit the 41st Division. For the next 18 days the Japanese tried to break the 41st Division line and failed. Abucay was abandoned on 25 January when Jap breakthroughs in Moron and Natib made Abucay untenable. . . After Abucay the Japs started to withdraw from Bataan, and resumed their attack in April, thus allowing MacArthur forty precious days for the preparation of Australia as an operational base. If any one factor can be said to have contributed mostly to make Bataan possible, that can be Abucay. And if any one unit can be said to have made Abucay possible that is General Lim's 41st Division.

Absolute knowledge that they were to hold at all cost gave those members of the Regiment, who were fighting for their homeland, an additional incentive. The Filipino soldier did not have to be motivated to fight. They were the only Philippine Army unit to have been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for helping the 57th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts.<sup>[19]</sup>

696 casualties from the intense fighting along the Abucay front for the 41st Infantry Regiment out of 1821.

"Probably due to the very heavy casualties that they had suffered in the actions along the Mt. Natib-Abucay line, the Japanese were slow to follow up the advantage gained by the Corps withdrawal." "Considering the lack of training in almost all of the Philippine Army units, their combat efficiency was much higher than expected." 500 casualties being hospitalized due to malaria daily, by March, the figure had risen to almost 1,000.

### **Abucay, not yielding an inch of ground, saving Bataan from early defeat**

It was in Bataan that the Japanese met the stiffest resistance from the armed forces during the campaign. For over 3 months, the 41st Division fought gallantly under grueling hostile fire, determined not to give up any ground. It was assigned to defend the biggest portion of the main battle position, yet it repelled the heavy armored and infantry attacks of the Japanese. The previously untested troops of the 41st repeatedly denied any ground to the superior

enemy forces and inflicted heavy casualties on every Japanese offensive. Because of the repeated beatings they received from the 41st, the Japanese actually began avoiding the sector that the 41st defended. For this, General Lim, and the rest of the men of the 41st Infantry Division earned respect and commendation from their co-defenders. In a letter sent to General Lim during the siege, Carlos P. Romulo wrote: "Everyone here is praising your courage and your ability. You are THE one Filipino General who has caught the imagination of everyone. The General (MacArthur), speaks highly of you all the time ... The General has spoken to the President (Quezon) about your courage and he has praised you time and again. The President once told me: "I have always said that fellow Lim is the only General we have in our army with cojones, and he is showing it now." Romulo later on wrote, "General Lim is the embodiment of the Philippine Army in Bataan: ragged, starved, sick unto death, beaten back hour after hour --- but invincible!"

### **The Orion-Bagac Line**

Having been forced out of their positions along the Mauban-Abucay line, the Filipino and American defenders of Bataan made a hasty withdrawal to its second (and last) defense line on Bataan, the Orion-Bagac line. Compared to the Mauban-Abucay position, the Orion-Bagac line was a shorter, continuous line that spanned the middle of the Bataan Peninsula. Here, General's Lim's 41st Division was assigned to defend the center of the line, in front of Mt. Samat extending to the Pantingan River to the west.

### **The Battle for Trail 2**

By 26 January 1942, all USAFFE units had made good their withdrawal to the Orion-Bagac line. The Japanese forces on the other hand, were eager to force a quick conclusion to the battle and pressed on with little respite. Unfortunately for the USAFFE troops, there was still much confusion as to the final disposition of some units along the front. During the withdrawal from the Mauban-Abucay line, a number of changes were made by the USAFFE Command to initial plans and assignments, and this information did not get to some individual unit commanders in time. As a result, there were many critical gaps along the line that were left undefended. One such gap was the position astride Trail 2 and near the barrio of Capot (since renamed to Barangay General Vicente Lim), an important north-south trail that offered the Japanese the easiest route of advance (with the exception of Bataan's East Road) south to Limay, one of the objectives of the Japanese attack.

General Clifford Bluemel, the sector commander for the area around Trail 2 and one of those who was not properly informed of the shifts of units along the front line discovered the gap not too long before the Japanese put their next attack in motion. To remedy the dangerous situation, a mix of various units, led by the 41st Infantry Regiment (already recipients of a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions in Abucay) of General Lim's 41st Division were sent to plug the gaps. By the night of 27 January, the 41st Infantry, after a 24-hour march to the sector, joined units from the 31st and 51st Divisions just in time to aid against the Japanese attack on the area which was already underway. By the 29th, more Japanese troops made their way across the Pilar River, and towards a bamboo thicket just 75 yards in front of the USAFFE's main line of resistance.

The resulting battle was a brisk and bloody one fought at close quarters. General Lim's men, as they did along the Abucay Line, held firm against every Japanese onslaught. Company K of the 41st Infantry met the enemy at bayonet point. The next morning, more than a hundred dead Japanese were found within 150 yards of the main line of resistance. Some of the bodies, were found only a few yards away from the Filipinos' foxholes who suffered only light casualties. The Japanese effort to penetrate the USAFFE line had failed.



Despite their heavy losses, the Japanese resumed their attacks on the night of 31 January. While their attack was preceded by aerial and artillery bombardments, the Japanese were again frustrated when effective machine gun fire halted their planned infantry advance.

On 2 February, the 31st Engineer Battalion, Philippine Army was sent to decisively clear the bamboo thicket of the remaining Japanese troops. Shortly after their attack had begun, the Engineers met stiff resistance and their attack stalled. Once again, the men of the 41st were called on, and sent to aid in the attack. The advance of the Filipinos then continued, and by dusk, they had finally reached the thicket. The next morning, they resumed their attack only to find that they had cleared the area of all remaining Japanese, effectively ending the threat to Trail 2.

The fight for Trail 2 remains one of the finest moments in Philippine Army history.

### **Lull in the fighting and the proposal to counterattack**

By February 1942, the Japanese had already overshot their original estimate of being able to secure the Philippines within 50 days. The commander of Japanese forces, General Homma, ordered the suspension of offensive operations, in order to regroup and reorganize. As a result, there was a lull in the fighting on Bataan until the middle part of March 1942.

General Vicente Lim understood that unless a Japanese soldier was either dead or totally disabled, he was not going to stop attacking. Thus, during the lull, he made a proposal to the high command for a counterattack by USAFFE forces towards San Fernando, Pampanga. General Lim hoped that a counterattack north, would not only regain ground and their previous defensive positions, but would also give the USAFFE a chance to acquire much needed food stocks. He also believed it would provide a much-needed morale boost to the Filipino and American troops. Unfortunately, no counterattack materialized. It will never be known how much success such a counterattack would have actually yielded (and how much it would have really changed the long term course of events), but the admissions of Japanese Generals Homma and Takaji Wachi after the war suggest that there was indeed a great chance of success. So "demoralized and badly mangled" were the invading Japanese, that of its 16th Division and 65th Brigade, only two battalions could be classified 'effective' at the time

### **"To inspire and to lead"**

The effectiveness of the 41st Division as a fighting unit was as much due to the capability of its leadership, as it was about the bravery and tenacity of its fighting men. Brigadier General Vicente Lim's competence and his ability to get the most out of his men, contributed to making the 41st Division one of the most decorated units in the Battle of Bataan. An excerpt from the memorial article written by his classmates at West Point, best describes the way General Lim led men in battle: "General Lim knew his military science. General Lim had an uncanny faculty of predicting events. General Lim was an excellent judge of men. Although he had gained the reputation in peace time of being rough and outspoken, in war he was father to his men. He was accessible, and gave his counsel when this was sought. He made his subordinates fight by making them feel that upon their personal efforts depended the outcome of the battle."<sup>[4]</sup> An article written by Life Magazine reporter Melville Jacoby on March 16, 1942, in turn, offers a testimony to how General Lim's soldiers responded to his leadership: "One Filipino general is a West Pointer – the first from the Philippines to graduate – swarthy, barking General Vicente Lim, whose soldiers say if they don't jump at his command

he'll kick them in the tail. Lim was most pleased the other day when he needed 50 volunteers from his men for a patrol mission and 200 stepped forward."

While much praise was showered on General Vicente Lim for his leadership and the performance of his Division, it was his earnest desire to make sure credit was given where it was due. In his last known letter from Bataan, General Lim wrote to his wife: "With all this talk I sincerely give the credit to my officers and enlisted men. They are the ones who did it all. Mine is only to inspire and to lead them. When history is written I will give them all the credit. Their satisfaction is mine to share."

### **The fall of Bataan**

After almost four months of fighting the Japanese, the elements, hunger and disease, and with their fates already sealed by the decision made by Allied leaders to defeat Hitler's Germany first, the beleaguered defenders of Bataan were simply in no condition and position to effectively resist the enemy's final push to defeat them. The final Japanese offensive for Bataan began on Good Friday, April 3, 1942. The main attack was directed at the center of the main line of resistance, the sector covered by General Lim's 41st Division. The attack was preceded by an intense and sustained aerial and artillery bombardment. The intensity of the bombardment and the use of incendiaries effectively depleted the Division's ability to hold the line. By April 7, 1942, General Lim had assessed that the fight was over. One of Lim's last official acts was to issue a commendation to his division, "Your courageous and tenacious defense of your line for the last five days against tremendous odds and continuous bombing and shelling by the enemy merits my highest praise and commendation. I am proud to lead such a group of men." On April 9, 1942, all Filipino and American forces on Bataan were ordered to surrender. Bataan had fallen.

### **The Bataan Death March and incarceration at Camp O'Donnell**

After the surrender of Bataan, the Japanese Command anticipated that they would take around 25,000 prisoners of war (POWs), only to find that they did not have the logistics to transport the more than 65,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans who surrendered. The Japanese had also assumed that the surrendering soldiers would have their own rations, not realizing that the defenders that had given them such stiff resistance for more than three months, had just been surviving on half rations or less. The results were no less than disastrous. Filipino and American prisoners, who were already exhausted, sick and starving, were forced to go on a 65-mile (105 km) forced march from Mariveles, Bataan to San Fernando, Pampanga. Thousands died along the way. But starvation and exhaustion were not the only killers in this "march of death". Prisoners were subjected to untold brutalities by their Japanese captors, who had all been trained in the Samurai's medieval warrior code -- Bushido—and were taught that being taken prisoner was far worse than death. All prisoners, therefore, were looked upon as subhuman and unworthy of respect. Stragglers were beaten, shot or bayoneted. Those who attempted to escape or stop to get water met the same fate. Many that were too sick to continue on the march were buried alive. Even the courageous Filipino civilians that were caught offering food or drink to the passing columns, were beaten or killed as well.

Those that survived the march to San Fernando were then herded like cattle and jammed into boxcars, where thousands more died of suffocation because they had all been packed in too tight. Many accounts describe how the dead were kept standing because there simply wasn't any room for them to fall. The trains then took the POWs to Capas, Tarlac, from where they had to march the last 8 miles to Camp O'Donnell. This whole tragedy would later

become known as the infamous "Bataan Death March". Some estimates state that as many as 20,000 men died during the march. General Lim was among those who survived.

Unbeknownst to the survivors of the 9-day Death March, their suffering was far from over. A former Philippine Army camp, Camp O'Donnell was a facility designed to accommodate only 10,000 men. Cramming five times that number into the camp resulted in the deaths of thousands more. Poor sanitation, the lack of medical facilities, the shortage of food and water, and the continued brutality of the Japanese guards all contributed to the death toll.

### **Underground resistance and guerrilla operations**

As if the ordeal of the Bataan Death March and the horrific conditions at Camp O'Donnell were not enough, many surviving American POWs were sent off on "hell ships" to do forced hard labor in Japan, Manchuria, Korea and Taiwan, among others, until the end of the war. Those that were too weak, were incarcerated in various POW camps across the Philippines. Filipino POWs that survived O'Donnell were more fortunate, as they were eventually paroled and released by the Japanese. All were made to sign waivers that they would not join any resistance movements. Nonetheless, many did continue to fight the Japanese and joined the underground and various guerrilla organizations.

Upon his release, General Lim went to live in Manila with his brother-in-law's family, the Clemente Hidalgos. By this time, the Japanese had installed a puppet government headed by President José P. Laurel. Lim was sent feelers to head the puppet Philippine Constabulary. Absolutely determined not to have anything to do with the Japanese-controlled government, he had himself confined at the Institute of Cancer building of the Philippine General Hospital. With the cooperation of his doctors, Lim was pronounced "sick", giving him a ready excuse to turn down the appointments offered to him. He supposedly told an enraged Filipino ranking official that he preferred death at the hands of the Japanese, rather than an assassin's bullet.<sup>[25]</sup>

Lim used his time at the PGH to get back to health. Friends sent him food and other forms of help, and thus was comparatively well provided for. Lim sustained himself at the hospital by using proceeds from the sale of shares he owned in the Mangco Dry Dock. He continued to fight the Japanese using these same funds, personally financing various guerrilla activities in the provinces. Directing all of these operations from the PGH, Lim had his operatives give regular weekly reports about Japanese troop movements, disposition, and military installations.<sup>[26]</sup> Such information, like those provided by many other brave Filipino guerrillas, greatly contributed to the success of American and Filipino military operations to liberate the Philippines in the latter part of 1944 to 1945.

General Lim's involvement in the underground and guerrilla operations inevitably made him a target of the Japanese Military Police.

### **Capture and death**

In June 1944, General Lim was ordered to make his way to Australia to join General MacArthur in planning the re-capture of the Philippines. He also received information that he could be picked up by Kempeitai at any time. The decision was made to try to escape from the Philippines. While on route to Negros Island to meet a submarine that was to take him to Australia, the boat General Lim was riding with his companions, was flagged down off the coast of Batangas. The Japanese searched the hold and arrested Lim and his companions when two guns were found in the boat's hold. They were made prisoners and first taken to Calapan, Mindoro for initial investigations before being sent back to Manila.

Lim and his companions were imprisoned in Fort Santiago for the duration of the investigation and interrogation. There, Lim was reportedly tortured. The filthy conditions in which prisoners were kept, caused General Lim to contract a skin disease. Despite this, stories from fellow prisoners tell of how General Lim kept the spirits of the other prisoners up, and encouraged them to not lose hope.

Eventually, the results of the investigation at Fort Santiago laid a death sentence on Lim. He was transferred to the Kempeitai headquarters at the Far Eastern University and subsequently to the old Bilibid Prison. Nothing was heard of him after his transfer to Bilibid. Records pronounced General Lim "missing" in 1944.

It was a full 50 years later, in 1994, that the Lim family was able to make contact with Richard Sakakida, who had actually witnessed General Lim's death. Sakakida, a Nisei, was a United States Army intelligence agent stationed in the Philippines at the outbreak of World War II. He told the family that General Lim, together with some 50 or so guerrillas, were taken to the Chinese Cemetery where a long trench had been dug. They were all made to kneel and subsequently beheaded. Their bodies were then thrown into the trench and covered.

General Lim's body was never found.

### **Honors, tributes, memorials and legacy**

#### **Legacy**

Brigadier General Vicente Lim's distinguished service in the military spanned a period of almost 35 years and 2 World Wars. He was a pioneer throughout his career, being the first Filipino to graduate from West Point (and from various general staff schools), a charter member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and a key figure in the formation of a young nation's armed forces. He continued to "inspire and to lead" throughout the gallant stand at Bataan, and the guerrilla resistance. Today, he is remembered as the consummate professional soldier, who never compromised his principles, and stayed true to "Duty, Honor and Country" to the very end.

#### **Medals for gallantry and outstanding military service**

For all his years of serving with distinction in the military and for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements" Lim was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit by the United States Army. Lim was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart by the United States (awarded for "being wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces").

In recognition of General Lim's bravery and gallantry during the Battle of Bataan, the Philippine government awarded him the Distinguished Conduct Star and the Distinguished Service Star, the Philippines' second, and third highest military awards. He was also given a posthumous honorary rank of Lieutenant General.

#### **Monuments and memorials**

In recognition of his services to the Filipino people, General Lim likeness appears on the Philippine 1,000 Peso banknote together with José Abad Santos and Josefa Llanes Escoda. Lim also appears on postage stamps (₱3.20 value) which were first issued on August 22, 1982.

### **Postcard depicting Vicente Lim**

In September 1951, the former Camp Paciano Rizal in Calamba, Laguna was renamed Camp General Vicente P. Lim in honor of the revered commanding general of the 41st Infantry Division. The location of the Camp was the site where the 41st Field Artillery Regiment of the 41st Division was mobilized prior to the outbreak of World War II in the Philippines. The Camp once served as the site of the Philippine National Police Academy and the headquarters of the PNP's INP Training Command. Today, Camp Vicente Lim serves as the Headquarters of Police Regional Office 4A (PRO 4A) CALABARZON, whose area of responsibility covers the five provinces of Region IV A: Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon.

Across the Cultural Center of the Philippines, on Roxas Boulevard is a statue of Brigadier General Vicente Lim, along with a marker with the inscription: "We are born to live a life which is valuable only if we live it unselfishly, not for our own gratification, nor for that of our family - but for our country. Men should not fear death, but dishonor and defeat. There is nothing more beautiful than to live and die for the defense of one's country against a common enemy. There is nothing meaner and more vile than to yield to that enemy without fighting to the last ditch." - Vicente Lim, March 20, 1941. It is a quote from a speech the General gave to a group of UP ROTC graduates during their commencement exercises.

A bust of Brigadier General Vicente Lim, is one of six busts featuring various Philippine national heroes in the town square of Hinigaran, Negros Occidental.

The Headquarters building at the Philippine Military Academy is named Lim Hall in the General's honor.

Various schools across the Philippines (such as the General Vicente Lim Elementary School in Tondo, Manila) are named after Lim.

The former Barangay Kaput/Capot in Orion, Bataan is now named Barangay General Lim. Part of one of the more important battles during the Battle of Bataan, the Battle of Trail 2, took place here.

Many streets across the Philippines are named after General Vicente Lim.

### **Traditions and annual ceremonies in honor of General Vicente Lim**

February 24 (General Lim's birthday)

Various ceremonies mark the birth anniversary of General Vicente Lim. Ceremonies are held in Camp General Vicente P. Lim (hosted by the PNP-PRO4), in front of General Lim's statue along Roxas Boulevard (hosted by the City of Manila), as well as the ancestral lot where General Lim was raised in Calamba (hosted and organized by the Masonic Lodge of Calamba - Dr. Jose P. Rizal Lodge No. 270).

Rank insignia distribution - Philippine Military Academy

A general is easily distinguished from officers of lower rank because of the stars attached to the general's helmet or shoulder boards. The rank insignia of a Lieutenant in the US Army on the other hand, is a bar. General Lim once told his wife Pilar, that receiving his lieutenant's bar upon graduating from West Point was more meaningful and memorable to him than it was receiving his first star as a general. This simple confession became the basis of a rich tradition that has lasted for more than 50 years.

Upon leaving the institution, graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) are commissioned as Second Lieutenants or Ensigns in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Their rank insignia is a triangle, a symbol associated with the Philippine Revolution against Spanish rule in the 1800s. Since 1957, it has been the tradition of the direct descendants of General Vicente Lim to distribute these first rank insignia to the graduating class of the academy. The tradition was initiated by Vicente's wife, Pilar Hidalgo Lim, not only to honor the memory of her late husband, but also, to help impart upon the future leaders of the Armed Forces, the principles which defined his life.

### **Other personal details**

General Lim's son, 2nd Lt. Roberto Lim on March 1, 1942

General Lim was described by his West Point classmates as "rough and cheerful" and "had a sense of humor". They also described him as someone who "had a kind heart under this rough exterior, and was very considerate of others in the smallest details. He fully absorbed the spirit of West Point, and was always proud that he was a graduate." Furthermore, while Lim had a "reputation ... of being rough and outspoken", he "had human weakness". In Bataan, upon learning that his wife would be broadcasting a message on the radio, General Lim "ran to our radio tent and tears welled from his eyes as he heard his wife's voice and a message from his daughter."

One of Lim's close associates, Colonel Isagani V. Campo, wrote, "(General Lim's) most cherished thoughts were centered in the welfare of the war veterans and their widows. He had planned for the establishment of memorial homes or hospitals for the veterans and their widows and had pledged to devote the remaining years of his life to this cause."

A "born gambler", Lim was a very good bridge player and loved playing mahjong as well.

His letters reveal that Lim played the stock market and entered into various oil and mining ventures to help augment his income.

General Lim was known to be a Mason.

His son, Vicente Lim Jr. (1923-2012), later graduated from West Point in June 1944 (around the time of his father's capture).

### **Notable quotes**

About his fellow soldiers

With all this talk I sincerely give the credit to my officers and enlisted men. They are the ones who did it all. Mine is only to inspire and to lead them. When history is written I will give them all the credit. Their satisfaction is mine to share.

—Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his wife from the front line in Bataan, February 20, 1942

On service and fighting for one's country

to me, the satisfaction of the service, well done, is more than anything that any amount of money can give. This you might call is the satisfaction you get for your services towards your own people and country ... But most important of all is to leave a name that my posterity may be proud of.

—Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to one of his sons, 1938

I am of the firm conviction that the success of national defense will not depend much on the armaments nor the training of our able-bodied men but will depend 90% on the will of the people to fight for the country.



—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1940*

There are many forms of service that you can render to your country ... what I want to impress on you is that if death is necessary to accomplish your end in upholding your dignity and that of your country then death should be nothing.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1941*

We are born to live a life which is valuable only if we live it unselfishly, not for our own gratification, nor for that of our family - but for our country. Men should not fear death, but dishonor and defeat. There is nothing more beautiful than to live and die for the defense of one's country against a common enemy. There is nothing meaner and more vile than to yield to that enemy without fighting to the last ditch.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a commencement address to the ROTC graduates of the University of the Philippines, March 1941*

On dignity, conviction and principles

You will go further, even if you may not acquire wealth, but you will be happier and well contented if you go via the straight path in life -- that is honesty and integrity.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to one of his sons, 1939*

No great man will ever succeed in life if they do not grind their teeth and take the most dangerous path for the attainment of an end.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to one of his sons, Roberto, 1939*

If you make a mistake, take it on the chin. Those things will happen many times in your life. Swallow it. Have that strength of character to make the best out of it.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1939*

no matter what you do, be careful of what you say and if you happen to say it, do it.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1940*

Dignity is of prime importance in successful living ... Give your life if dignity can be protected or restored. That should be the philosophy of all Filipinos.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1941*

On preparation

Necessity is the mother of invention. Danger is the father of preparation.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1941*

I wish you will bear in mind that no matter how small a thing you want to do, plan it ahead of time, think it over and allot a certain time for you to prepare your plans, for a mediocre plan is better than a brilliant unprepared plan that is haphazardly carried out.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1941*

On patriotism, democracy and nation building

The principal defect of our national defense is not the training nor the lack of finances, but the great and dangerous defect of democracy which has been implanted into the minds of the Filipino people. We have a nationally wrong conception of democracy. Our democracy in the Philippines is unilateral. It is only for the benefit, for the freedom, for the rights, comfort and happiness of each individual member of the nation. That is the common belief, and I venture to say that 99.9% of our people believe in that kind of democracy. They do not know their obligations, their duties and the sacrifices that they should give to the state which is the relative counterpart of the amount of personal democracy he should indulge. The two should balance.

—*Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1940*

If we desire the respect of other nations, we must show them that we are exerting all efforts to build a nation not only strong in arms but unconquerable in spirit. An indomitable will to fight & an unflinching resolution to defend at all costs "life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness" are the fundamental characteristics of any nation that deserves to survive

—Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a commencement address to the ROTC graduates of the University of the Philippines, March 1941

A civilian doing his work in the pursuit of national defense is just as much a soldier as a man in uniform, if not better; because patriotism is a moral quality which should be possessed by all.

—Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a commencement address to the ROTC graduates of the University of the Philippines, March 1941

Others:

You must, however, not lose your sense of humor, which is also a great item in your success. Sense of humor is the counterweight for your misfortunes which you will meet from time to time, from the smallest to the biggest ... If you take anything seriously without any sense of humor and you should happen to fail, it will be the beginning of your downfall.

—Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1939

My greatest misgiving in this Army is the old system of the Filipino people. For an honest man it is rather the cause of my unhappiness. I am unhappy every time I see an officer or a reserve given more advantage over his brother officer because of his political or personal pull. That irritates me so much, I just cannot get over it.

—Brigadier General Vicente Lim, in a letter to his sons, 1940

### **In film**

Vicente Lim is depicted, by Maximiano Romualdez Janairo, Jr. (USMA class of 1954), in the 1955 John Ford movie, *The Long Gray Line*. In that scene, he is portrayed graduating with the United States Military Academy Class of 1915 (instead of 1914), "the class the stars fell on", perhaps in the context of listing the notable cadets of the period who went on to have outstanding military careers and were made famous by their meritorious service and wartime exploits.

## MANUEL ROXAS CAMUS

Manuel R. Camus (October 16, 1875 – December 22, 1949) was a lawyer and a Philippine senator.

### Education

He completed his education in Singapore and returned to the Philippines in 1899 to serve as an interpreter and translator for the Provost Marshal General of the United States Army.

### Career

From 1928 to 1931, he served as a senator in the Philippine Senate.



A lawyer by profession, he held position in numerous private and public offices : Partner, Dizon and Zavalla; acting honorary consul for Peru; Vice-president, Gold Rock Mining Co.; member, board of directors, Federated Management and Investment Syndicate; member, Anti-Usury Board; president, El Hogar Filipino; scout commissioner, Philippine Council, Boy Scouts of America; director, Metropolitan Theater Co.; president, national committee, Y.M.C.A. of the Philippine Islands; chairman, disaster relief committee, Philippine Red Cross (American National Red Cross); member, American Bar Association; president, Community Publishers, Inc.; and president, executive committee, Greater Manila Civic League.

He was a charter member (1936) and the president and chief scout of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in 1945 to 1949.

### Today in Masonic History Manuel R. Camus passes away in 1949.

Manuel R. Camus was a Filipino politician and Grand Master of the Philippines.

Camus was born on October 16th, 1875 in Manila. Camus was fourteen years younger than José Rizal. Despite their age difference the two men were friends through the fraternity and it was Camus who convinced Rizal to stay out of the Philippines when he was in danger of being arrested there.

Camus put himself into a self-imposed exile in Singapore. He returned to the Philippines after the Spanish-American war when the Philippines were turned over to the United States from Spain. He worked initially as an interpreter of the Provost Marshall General.

Camus later began working in government. First he worked as the city attorney for Manila. After he was appointed to the Judiciary. He served as a judge for two decades. In his time as a judge he was known for being fair and impartial in his decisions.

In 1928, Camus was elected to the Philippine Senate. He served there until 1931. Again his high level of integrity was recognized by all who worked with him. At a time when many used their position in the politics of the Philippines to enrich themselves, Camus resisted such temptations. After leaving the Senate he went into a private legal practice.

Outside of the professional arena, Camus took an interest in the youth of the Philippines. He was one of the organizers of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and the YMCA of the Philippines.

Camus passed away on December 22nd, 1949.

Camus has a long and complex association with the masonic fraternity. He started his masonic journey while in Singapore. He was raised in Zetland in the East Lodge No. 508. The lodge operated under the United Grand Lodge of England. Records indicate he demitted from Zetland Lodge a year later, presumably when he returned to the Philippines. It is unclear what his status in the fraternity was for the next two years in the Philippines. He did sign a petition to create Manila Lodge No. 342 in 1901, under the Grand Lodge of California. From there he demitted from Manila Lodge and on the same day petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland to form Perla De Oriente Lodge No. 1034 in 1908. He then demitted there in 1916 when he helped to form Cosmos Lodge No. 8 under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Camus served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in 1934.

Camus was also a member of York Rite, Scottish Rite and was a Shriner affiliated with the Nile Temple in Seattle, Washington.

### **The seven charter members and founding**

Fathers of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines are Joseph Emile H. Stevenot, Arsenio N. Luz, Carlos P. Romulo, General Vicente Lim, Judge Manuel R. Camus, Jorge B. Vargas and Gabriel A. Daza.

On January 1, 1938, the inauguration of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines was held in front of the Legislative Building in Manila, with Exequiel Villacorta taking over as chief scout executive, equivalent to the position of today's secretary general.

J.E.H. Stevenot served as the first president of the BSP, with Jorge B. Vargas as first vice president, Carlos P. Romulo as second vice president, General Vicente Lim as treasurer, Judge Manuel R. Camus as national scout commissioner, Exequiel Villacorta as chief scout executive, and Severino V. Araos as deputy chief scout executive.

## TOMAS VALENZUELA CONFESOR

*In this Philippine name, the middle name or maternal family name is Valenzuela and the surname or paternal family name is Confesor.*

Tomás Valenzuela Confesor (March 2, 1891 – June 6, 1951) was a Filipino politician and former Senator of the Philippines from 1946 to 1951. He was served as a governor of Iloilo and later, all of Panay Island during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II. Right after the war, he served as Mayor of Manila and secretary of the Philippine Department of the Interior under President Sergio Osmeña.



### Biography

Confesor was born to a "farmer-schoolteacher" in Iloilo. He graduated from the Iloilo High School.<sup>[1]</sup> He then went to the United States, which then ruled the Philippines, and worked while attending the University of California for three years. In 1912, while at the University of California, he was a founder of a new pro-Philippine independence student newspaper called the Filipino Student. He later graduated from the University of Chicago in Illinois with a major in municipal government and economics. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the University of California and a Bachelor of Philosophy in economics from the University of Chicago.

When he returned to the Philippines, he was briefly a teacher. He served as supervisor of Jaro, Iloilo. He was then elected to the Philippine Legislature in 1922 and served for three terms. In 1933, he was appointed by the Governor-General of the Philippines Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. as the Director of Commerce, the first Filipino to hold that office.

In 1934, he was elected to the Philippine Constitutional Convention that drafted the 1935 Constitution of the Philippines and was subsequently elected to the Philippine National Assembly, the body that replaced the Philippine Legislature.

### World War II resistance leader on Panay

When Japan attacked the Philippines on December 8, 1941, Confesor was in Manila. He was chief of the National Cooperatives Association while also governor of Iloilo. He escaped to Panay on a small sailboat.<sup>[4]</sup> He fled to the mountains of Panay along with his wife and children to help lead the resistance to the Japanese occupation. He led the civilian government first of Iloilo and then he was appointed by Philippine President Quezon as "wartime governor of Free Panay and Romblon", which includes the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz and Romblon. Macario Peralta, Jr. led the armed guerrillas on Panay. Confesor and Peralta frequently clashed.

During the war, the puppet governor of Iloilo urged Confesor to stop fighting. Confesor replied in what Time Magazine called a "classic of resistance literature": "This war has placed us in the crucible to assay the metal in our being. . . . You underrate the nobility and grandeur of the character and soul of the Filipino. . . . I will not surrender as long as I stand on my feet."

Immediately after the liberation of Manila from the Japanese, during which Manila was largely destroyed, he was appointed mayor of Manila. The destruction of Manila was so great that in Manila's business district only two buildings were not damaged and those two

were looted of their plumbing. On April 8, 1945 he was also appointed Secretary of the Interior. Also after the war, he served as the Chief Philippine Delegate to the Far Eastern Commission.

In 1946, he was elected to the Philippine Senate.

### **Positions on issues**

In the 1946 presidential election he supported incumbent Pres. Osmeña of the Nacionalista Party over challenger and ultimate winner Manuel Roxas of the Nacionalista Party (Liberal wing) (the precursor to today's Liberal Party).

He opposed "parity rights", providing rights to Philippine natural resources to American citizens and corporations equal to Philippine citizens and corporations, as required by the U.S. Bell Trade Act and campaigned against approval of the parity rights constitutional amendment in the Philippine parity rights plebiscite of 1947.

### **Honors**

President Sergio Osmeña awarded Confesor the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander.

### **Death**

Confesor died of a heart attack on June 6, 1951, during his Senate term. He was given a state funeral in 1951.





# Boy Scouts of the Philippines

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### EXCOM RESOLUTION NO. 1

#### Series of 2023

#### **"A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES."**

**WHEREAS**, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines was legally created as a public corporation by virtue of the enactment of Commonwealth Act No. 111, signed by President Manuel Luis Quezon on October 31, 1936 with the purpose of promoting "the ability of boys to do useful things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts";

**WHEREAS**, Commonwealth Act No. 111, was further amended by Presidential Decree No. 460 and Republic Act No. 7278 having the same aspiration to inculcate the teachings and values of being a Scout to the nation and the youth of the land;

**WHEREAS**, the creation of such institution was pioneered by the founding fathers namely, to wit: Joseph Emile H. Stevenot, Arsenio N. Luz, Carlos P. Romulo, General Vicente P. Lim, Judge Manuel R. Camus, Jorge B. Vargas and Gabriel A. Daza;

**WHEREAS**, J.E.H. Stevenot served as the first President of the BSP, with Jorge B. Vargas as First Vice President, Carlos P. Romulo as Second Vice President, General Vicente Lim as Treasurer, Judge Manuel R. Camus as National Scout Commissioner, Exequiel Villacorta as Chief Scout Executive, and Severino V. Araos as Deputy Chief Scout Executive;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **JOSEPHUS EMILE HAMILTON STEVENOT**, born December 23, 1888, in Melones California, a United States Army Officer, and served as the Director of the Philippine Trust Company, President and General Manager of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Director of the Bank of Philippine Islands, Director of Philippine Milling Company, Director of Philippine Realty Corporation, and Director of Fidelity & Surety Company, initiated the Scouting Movement in the Boy Scouts of America Philippine Islands Council No. 545, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, performed the paperwork for the establishment of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines alongside the other founding fathers;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **JORGE BARTOLOME VARGAS**, born August 24, 1890, in Bago, Negros Occidental, a member of the Philippine Bar, diplomat, youth advocate, founding member and executive committee of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, now the Philippine Olympic Committee, the first Filipino member of the International Olympic Committee, the country's first Executive Secretary, former Speaker of the House in President Osmena's administration, former Senate President, and head of several Executive Departments, served as a member of the Boy Scout International Committee, and President of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, had greatly contributed to the development of the scout movement and has strengthened the Filipino scouts' sense of nationalism

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **GABRIEL AMANDO CINCO DAZA**, born February 6, 1896 in Borongan, Eastern Samar, the first electrical engineer in the country, co-founder of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, member of Board of Directors of Manila Railroad Company and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Vice Chairman of National Grid Corporation, one of the Board of Directors of Manila Hotel, one of Board of Directors of National Shipyard and Steel Company and president of National Economic Protection Agency, had greatly contributed to the development of the scout movement and has strengthened the Filipino scouts' sense of nationalism;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **ARSENIO NICASIO LUZ**, born December 14, 1888 in Lipa, Batangas, a journalist and educator, an attaché for several Philippine Independence Missions in the United States, economic adviser of President Manuel Luis Quezon, and the first president of the Rotary Club of the Philippines, greatly contributed to the development of the scout movement and has strengthened the Filipino scouts' sense of nationalism;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **CARLOS PENA ROMULO**, born January 14, 1898 in Camiling, Tarlac, a diplomat, statesman, soldier, journalist, author, professor at the University of the Philippines, ambassador, and president of the United Nations General Assembly, greatly contributed to the development of the scout movement and has strengthened the Filipino scouts' sense of nationalism;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **VICENTE PODICO LIM**, born February 24, 1888 in Calamba, Laguna, a Brigadier General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a World War II hero, first Filipino graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and the Commanding General of the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division of Philippine Army, USAFFE, had greatly contributed to the development of the scout movement and has strengthened the Filipino scouts' sense of nationalism;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **MANUEL ROXAS CAMUS**, born October 16, 1875 in Manila City, National Capital Region, a member of the Philippine Bar, former trial court judge, former Senator of the Republic, member of American Bar Association, head and member of several private and public corporations, and an interpreter and translator for the Provost Marshal General of the United States Army, had greatly contributed to the development of the scout movement and has strengthened the Filipino scouts' sense of nationalism;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. **TOMAS VALENZUELA CONFESOR**, born March 2, 1891 in Iloilo, former Governor of Iloilo, former Senator of the Republic, and a recipient of Philippine Legion of Honor, Degree of Commander, sponsored the BSP Bill that was signed into Commonwealth Act No. 111, creating the Boy Scouts of the Philippines as a public corporation;

**WHEREAS**, future Scouts can better appreciate the Scouting Movement if they are to know the persons who pioneered Scouting in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, valuing and respecting the historical significance of the lives, respective works and contributions of the founding fathers of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines will inspire the young Scouts to be always prepared to give self for the glory of God and the Republic of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, it is encouraged that Regional Offices and Local Councils commemorate the lives of the founding fathers born in their respective localities during their birth dates;

**WHEREAS**, there must be a local commemoration, to be celebrated annually reckoned from the promulgation of this Resolution, in the following places, to wit: Negros Occidental Council-Western Visayas Region as the birthplace of Mr. Jose Bartolome Vargas on August 24; Eastern Samar Council- Eastern Visayas Region as the birthplace of Mr. Gabriel Daza on February 6; Lipa Council-Southern Tagalog Region as the birthplace of Mr. Arsenio Nicanor Luz on December 14; Tarlac Council- Central Luzon Region as the birthplace of Mr. Carlos Romulo Pena on January 14; Laguna Council- Southern Tagalog Region as the birthplace of Mr. Vicente Podico Lim on February 24; Manila Council-National Capital Region as the birthplace of Manuel Roxas Camus on October 16; and Iloilo Council-Western Visayas Region as the birthplace of Mr. Tomas Confessor on March 2;


**WHEREAS**, the General Commemoration of the founding fathers shall be among the highlights of the Culminating Activities during the Scouting Month;

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO APPROVE** that the GENERAL COMMEMORATION DAY of the Founding Fathers of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines be among the highlights of the Scouting Month annually throughout the National Office and Regional Field Offices of the institution and that the LOCAL COMMEMORATION be celebrated annually in the aforementioned Councils on the respective aforementioned dates;


**RESOLVED FINALLY**, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the members of the NEB, the Secretary General, Senior Management Team, and all others concerned for their information, guidance, and appropriate action.

**APPROVED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023 in Manila, Philippines.

Attested by:

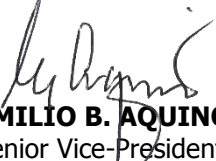
  
**WINDSOR C. MORALES**  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Secretary General

Certified Correct:

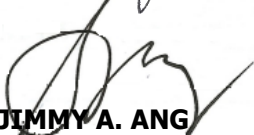
  
**DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO**  
Officer-In-Charge  
Office of the Secretary General

Approved by:

  
**DALE B. CORVERA**  
National President


  
**EMILIO B. AQUINO**  
Senior Vice-President

  
**CEDRICK G. TRAIN**  
Chief National Commissioner

  
**JIMMY A. ANG**  
National Treasurer

  
**DAVID DOMINIC M. LANUZA**  
International Commissioner

  
**DEL R. DE GUZMAN**  
Vice-President for Luzon

  
**FRANCIS FREDERICK P. PALANCA**  
Vice-President for Visayas

  
**JOSE RIZALINO I. ORTEGA**  
Vice-President for Mindanao