Tasmania is here behind RA

26TH JANUARY 2018
This is the first report for 2018 and I trust that you all had a pleasant Christmas and a happy New Year. I was pleased to see a lot of RSL members along with the WAG’s who attended Christmas lunch at the Hotel Fenson. It’s good to support those who support us and we all had a great day. The Santa was first class, the best I have ever seen and I now know that Santa is really a Pinoy (Pilipino). Ho! Ho! Ho!

Even with the Christmas season taking a lot of personal time, it has been a very productive month for our Sub Branch. As I write this report, our annual Australia Day Fiesta has not taken place but behind the scenes the committee is working non-stop to ensure its success. No doubt there will be many photos in this edition of the newsletter. I take this opportunity to thank all of the members who have volunteered to help; without you, the day could well be a failure.

Members and guests who check our web site have noticed that it has improved, but we still have some teething problems to sort out. The secretary has offered to update the site as and when required and he will get together with our IT man to learn how to do it, when he is clear of his chest infection. One very important addition to the site is a new tab, “Make a will”. I urge all of you to read this item; it is in two sections, “Will Check List” and “Will Template”.

This has been organised by Vice President Gary Barnes along with Simon Mann (Solicitor) and our local attorney (Philippine law does not allow us to advertise his name). At the time of writing, we have lost at least 11 members since the February AGM. Unfortunately, not all had their affairs in order and no wills were made. This created huge problems for the loved ones they left behind but also it was a great burden on our welfare officers.

Please remember, it is not our responsibility to attend to your personal matters, it is yours and yours alone. So again, I urge you to check the “Make a will” and give peace of mind to your partner.

You often hear me state that we can achieve much when we work as a team. You do not have to be committee to get involved and help and a fine example of this is our American friend and affiliate member, Bill Brehm. Bill has helped secure a tent for 583 Travel in our fiesta, but there is much more. Working with the secretary, Bill has arranged for 583 Travel to attend the general meeting to be held in February. Ms. Christine Mendoza is the head of immigration at 583 Travel and will talk about the special retirement visa (SRRV), what’s involved plus more and will be open for questions.

She will be accompanied by Ms. Scarlet Lachica, head of the Philippine Retirement Authority, Central Luzon and the meeting is scheduled to take place at our rooms, 20th February at 2:00pm. Anyone contemplating such visas should attend the meeting; I’m assured it will be very interesting and informative.

Hopefully Larry our editor will get the newsletter ready for release before the end of the month and you will be able to see the mud map of the February medical mission which will be held at the covered area at Duquit Elementary School. This will be the first for the year and we will again have the pleasure of having the nurses from Deakin University (Vic, Australia) who travel each year to attend and assist at a mission. This is part of the nurses training and often their first opportunity to see and work in a developing country.

The Sub Branch is proud to be part of their training and we always look forward to the coming.

That’s all from me for this month, President Bob Barnes going for a coffee break.
**RSL EVENTS SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2018**

**Night Moves Club........15 draws**

Raffle every Monday, drawn at 6:00pm. Great Prizes

**Phillies Sports & Grill Raffle**

Special Nights to be advertised

Special thanks to The Blue-Book for advertising our events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday 3rd February 2018</th>
<th>Tuesday 6th February 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MEDICAL MISSION</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 pm COMMITTEE MEETING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Covered area at:-</td>
<td>2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUQUIT ELEMENTARY</td>
<td>4:00pm Ice Bar – Baby Dolls – Platinum Bar</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 13th February 2018</th>
<th>Tuesday 20th February 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 pm WELFARE MEETING</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 pm GENERAL MEETING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson</td>
<td>2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00pm Gecho’s – La Bamba – Rhapsody’s</td>
<td>4:00pm Candy Bar – Highway 54 – Night Moves</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 26th February 2018</th>
<th>Check our web site <a href="http://www.rslangelescity.com">www.rslangelescity.com</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 pm NO MEETING</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@rslangelescity.com">secretary@rslangelescity.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson</td>
<td>or <a href="mailto:philsalmon@y7mail.com">philsalmon@y7mail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm Hotel Fenson (Ponderosa Resort)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**Map:**

- MacArthur Hwy to Mabalacat
- Eternal Peace Memorial Park
- Dau Access Road
- Bus Terminal MEDICAL MISSION Covered area at:- DUQUIT ELEMENTARY
- Ubas Street
- Deakin University Australia
- NLEX to Clark
- NLEX to Angeles
Christmas and the New Year have passed, time to get the wheelchair team back into action. Pictured right is Ian Briggs constructing a chair after carefully measuring the child. As we have mentioned before, these chairs are tailor made to suit the individual child’s needs. As the child grows, the chair can be adjusted as required ensuring that the chair will last a long time.

Wheelchair Team in Action
10th January 2018

Ian Briggs, Chris Weeks and Peter Van Huisstede working as a team. (Steve Innes in the background). As the proud parents watch the progress.

Photos supplied by Peter Van Huisstede

RIGHT: The works are now completed. Happy faces pictured with some of the wheelchair team. More volunteers are always welcome. See VP Chris Weeks any Tuesday at the Hotel Fenson. (Former Ponderosa)
VVCS Victoria Group Programs
January - May 2018

Operation Life: Suicide Prevention
Veteran Community
For up-to-date information on upcoming groups refer to VVCS website:

Sleeping Better
Veterans, Partners, Family
2 Day Workshop

Melbourne
22 March - 23 March / 9:30am - 4:00pm

Relaxation & Mindfulness
Veterans, Partners, Family
3 Session Workshop

Melbourne
Fridays, 2 February - 16 February / 11:00am - 1:30pm

1 Day Workshop

Wodonga
20 April / 9:30am - 4:00pm

Residential Lifestyle Program
Veterans & Partners
5 Day Program

Flowerdale
20 May - 25 May

This item was sent by RSL Victoria Branch. Members that live in Angeles City, Philippines would not attend, however, we have many members that reside in Victoria (and other states/territories) that may wish register for these sessions.
**MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

This month, by a unanimous decision we make **Peter Henderson** the man of the month. Peter has a long history with the RSL and has held executive positions in Australia before transferring to Angeles. Always with a big happy smile, a “true Blue” RSL member who is always on hand when needed. Recently, President Bob Barnes called for volunteers to conduct the Australia Day monster raffle at the Fiesta. With no hesitation, Peter accepted the challenge and is happy to take on this vital position. We thank Peter for coming to the rescue that will help to ensure the Fiesta will be a success.

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**STOP PRESS**

In addition to **Ms. Christine Mendoza & Ms. Scarlet Lachica** from 583 travel who will attend the February general meeting as stated in the Presidents report, we will also have the head of immigration in Angeles City. Please ensure that you are in the meeting room BEFORE 1400 hrs as the meeting room door will be locked at that time.

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**HOTEL FENSON**
9th January 2018
The 73rd Anniversary of the Lingayen Landings and the 11th Pangasinan Veterans Day
9th January 2018
The 73rd Anniversary of the Lingayen Landings and the 11th Pangasinan Veterans Day

ABOVE: Peter Renton & President Bob Barnes proudly representing Angeles Sub Branch

Each year we are invited by the Governor of Pangasinan, the Honourable Amado I Espino 111 to attend and join the official party for a service at the Veterans Memorial Park followed by lunch at the Sison Auditorium. We feel honoured to be invited and gratefully accept.
9th January 2018
The 73rd Anniversary of the Lingayen Landings and the 11th Pangasinan Veterans Day

ABOVE: President Bob Barnes with a WW11 veteran at the Memorial Park.
LEFT: Ahead of the marching band, very smart marching to the service.

BELOW: Peter Renton (left) with President Bob (right) with the wreaths lined up ready for the service. The RSL wreath is the far right with white flowers.
Two more children receive the special wheelchairs kindly donated by “WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS” who are based in Perth. According to their web site, they have issued 39,062 to date.

**TOP RIGHT** (Left to right): David Shine, Graham Crispin, Steve Innes, Peter Van Huisstede, the Hon. George Christiansen MP and Chris Weeks.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** A chair is half complete, Peter Van Huisstede hard at work.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** The two children ready to return home to Bulacan, about 1 hours’ drive.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Our special visitor the Hon. George Christiansen MP although he was on holiday, he visited our Sub Branch and met with the committee. He was happy to attend the wheelchair team and see them in action. He had another appointment for mid-morning but stayed until the end of the construction of the chairs. George is the sitting member for Dawson (Mackay) and is a personal friend of Keith Payne VC and the CEO of Mackay Reef Fish Supplies David Caracciolo who are actively involved in raising funds so our Sub Branch can purchase a new truck.
Celebrating Australia Day
At The Annual Fields Avenue Street Party.
Sunday 28th January
SPECIAL NOTICE

PLEASE HELP. We are trying to contact Paul Woodley who won the 4th prize in the monster raffle. The prize is a meat voucher 3,000Php per month for 6 months very kindly donated by Scott Chambers, Prime Choice Meats. The contact number that Paul gave is incorrect. The ticket number is 1197. If anyone knows Paul, please ask him to contact the secretary:-

secretary@rslangelescity.com

The girls from Pinatubo Brewery. Hope to see you next year.
LEFT: Norme Smith, Commander of VFW Post 2485 with the 1st prize trophy in the curry cook-off completion.

VP Gary Barnes with 7 judges tasted the samples in The Walkabout Hotel. They all agreed that these were the best samples for many years and each deserved a prize. We thank the following for participating in the competition:-

VFW Post 2485  
Tasty Tucker  
Aussie Aqua  
Phoenix Hotel  
RBI Steak House  
Cootie Pup Tent 15

We hope to see you at next year’s fiesta.
**MONSTER RAFFLE RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize list</th>
<th>Donated by</th>
<th>The lucky winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>40,000 Peso cash</td>
<td>Angeles City RSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>20,000 Peso cash</td>
<td>Angeles City RSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>15 nights accommodation at 50% off</td>
<td>Boomerang Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Meat voucher 3,300 Php per month for 6 months</td>
<td>Prime Choice Quality Meats</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>1 nights accommodation plus tee shirt</td>
<td>Walkabout Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Ladies and Gents watches</td>
<td>Australian Visas – John Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Meat voucher 3,300 Php per month for 6 months</td>
<td>Prime Choice Quality Meats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>5,000 Peso cash</td>
<td>China Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>1 nights accommodation plus tee shirt</td>
<td>Walkabout Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Aussie Pack plus cash</td>
<td>Simon Kelly &amp; John Muggride</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>1 night Queen Deluxe Room, shirt &amp; mug</td>
<td>Hotel Fenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Platinum Videoke Player</td>
<td>Duomed Enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Dinner vouchers &amp; 2 drinks vouchers</td>
<td>Hotel Fenson</td>
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We thank the companies & individuals who made the generous donations.

I have been asked why we celebrate Australia Day on a Sunday and not the 26th. The City Hall and Barangay Captain will not allow us to have the street party on a weekday or Saturday. Next year’s fiesta will be held Sunday 27th. I am accepting bookings for booths and have 23 reservations so far.
A SAD END TO AN ERA

The last known Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel, Havala Laula, has died in his remote village in Papua New Guinea. His death comes 75 years after he helped evacuate wounded Australian soldiers in World War II.

Laula died on Christmas Eve, aged 91, in his remote village of Kagi, which is located approximately halfway along the Kokoda Track.

Mr Laula was a teenager in 1942 when Japanese troops landed in PNG and tried to fight their way south along the Kokoda Trail to launch an attack on Australia.

Throughout the Kokoda campaign, an estimated 50,000 Papuan civilians helped provide supplies to Australian troops and evacuate injured soldiers.

The nickname, Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel, was a term of endearment given to the villagers by Australian soldiers.

Mr Laula visited Australia in February this year for the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign, a campaign which involved some of the war’s bloodiest battles.

During his visit to Melbourne, Mr Laula met with surviving diggers from the 39th Battalion, and his passing marks the end of an important chapter of our nation’s military history.

In a recent interview, Mr Laula reminisced on his experiences during World War II and stressed the importance of an ongoing bond between our two nations.

“Friendship between Australians and Papua New Guinea must live on in all generations to come,” said Mr Laula.

“When we die, our children and their children’s children must keep that bond forever, until the end of time.”

At a commemoration event at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra last month, Veterans’ Affairs Minister Dan Tehan reflected on Australia’s debt of gratitude to the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.

“We also remember that an estimated 50,000 Papuan civilians — known as the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels — provided supplies to Australian soldiers and evacuated our sick and wounded. It is testament to Australia’s enduring friendship with PNG,” Mr Tehan said.

“On the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda we will pause and reflect on the experiences of the Australians who defended our country and values in PNG.”

Story by: EMILY RITCHIE

Journalist
Sydney
@emritchiejourno
OUR FLAG BEARS THE STARS THAT BLAZE AT NIGHT
IN OUR SOUTHERN SKY OF BLUE
AND THAT LITTLE OLD FLAG IN THE CORNER
THAT’S PART OF OUR HERITAGE TOO.

IT’S FOR THE ENGLISH, THE SCOTS AND THE IRISH
WHO WERE SENT TO THE END OF THE EARTH
THE ROGUES AND THE SCHEMERS, THE DOERS AND DREAMERS
WHO GAVE MODERN AUSTRALIA BIRTH.

AND YOU WHO ARE SHOUTING TO CHANGE IT
YOU DON’T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND
IT’S THE FLAG OF OUR LAWS AND LANGUAGE
NOT THE FLAG OF A FARAWAY LAND.

THOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO WILL TELL YOU
HOW WHEN EUROPE WAS PLUNGED INTO NIGHT
THAT LITTLE OLD FLAG IN THE CORNER
WAS THEIR SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND LIGHT.

IT’S ONLY AN OLD PIECE OF BUNTING
IT’S ONLY AN OLD COLOURED RAG
BUT THERE ARE THOUSANDS WHO DIED FOR ITS HONOUR
AND FELL IN DEFENCE OF OUR FLAG.

IT DOESN’T MEAN THAT WE OWE OUR ALLEGIANCE
TO A FORGOTTEN IMPERIAL DREAM
WE’VE THE STARS TO SHOW WHERE WE’RE GOING
AND THE OLD FLAG TO SHOW WHERE WE’VE BEEN.

DISCLAIMER

The Angeles City Sub-Branch of the R&SLA, the Committee and the Editor take no responsibilities for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies contained in this newsletter. Nor do they accept any liability for loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly for use of information contained in this newsletter. Nor do they warrant that articles or opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Sub-branch, the Committee or the Editor.
Filipino AIF Volunteers: In the Tradition of José Rizal

Part 1: Introduction

This year, the various commemorations relating to the centenary of World War 1 will culminate when the allied nations mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day when – on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – the guns fell silent on the Western Front.

This Great War had seen the mobilisation of over 70 million people, with as many as 13 million dead and perhaps one-third of them with no known grave. Among them were the two sons of a Filipino-Australian family from Darwin, whose service and sacrifice could be seen to be in the tradition of the martyr and Filipino national hero Dr José Rizal.

Northern Territory Volunteers

Despite the prolific ‘tall bronzed Anzac’ iconography of World War 1, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) actually comprised quite a ‘mixed lot’ of racial and ethnic types. There has been much research published on the various groups who volunteered, or could not, for AIF service including Chinese, Papuans and indigenous Australians. We now know that there were also over 1,000 Russian-born servicemen, and a considerable number of Indians. At least one Gurkha is also known to have served in uniform in the AIF.

At least 319 volunteers from the Northern Territory made their way from even the most remote and isolated outback settlements to recruiting centres, by whatever means they could muster, to enlist for what they saw either as a great ‘adventure’ or ‘duty’ to the Empire. Of these patriotic Territorian volunteers, current research has identified that eight of them were Filipino-Australians.

Carlos Ga (1854-1931)

Notable among them were the four sons of Carlos Ga, a sailor and diver from the Dinagat Islands north of Surigao Del Norte who came to Thursday Island in about 1870 diving for pearlshell. Carlos married Mary Anne Bunyan (1864-1909) from Wales, and seven children were born on Thursday Island. In around 1892, Carlos came to Port Darwin as a diver for pearlshell and bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber or trepang), and a further four children were born before Mary Anne died in 1909.

All four sons of Carlos and Mary Anne who lived to adulthood were volunteers for the AIF in 1915: one commenced his training but did not serve overseas, one was wounded and decorated for bravery, and two lost their lives in Europe. This represents a significant contribution from a single Darwin family to the military history of Australia.

José Rizal

In the time following Carlos Ga’s departure from the Philippines, developments of great import were in their infancy but fast gaining momentum. The nationalist José Rizal came to prominence – with two ‘social-commentary’ novels published in 1887 and 1891, and particularly through leading a reform movement in Spain in 1890-92.

On his return to the Philippines in 1892 José Rizal formed a local ‘social reform’ organisation, was declared an enemy of the state, and was exiled. In 1896 meanwhile, and quite independently, the members of a fledgling revolutionary movement declared their intention to overthrow Spanish rule. The authorities used the opportunity to link Rizal to the insurrection, and he faced a court-martial for sedition and conspiracy.

Rizal’s execution by an army firing squad on 30 December 1896 became a defining moment for the archipelago which would ultimately become the Republic of the Philippines, propelling Rizal to martyr and later national hero status. He is recalled throughout the Philippines today by a province named in his honour, on currency, and by statues and streets in almost every major centre. Visiting dignitaries lay a wreath at the Rizal Monument in Luneta Park at the commencement of their formal engagements, and the variants ‘Rizaleo’ or ‘Rizalea’ are common names.

In many ways, the sons of Carlos Ga couldn’t be more different from José Rizal. Rizal was the son of a prominent and prosperous landowner; he was a ‘Man of Letters’ educated in Manila and Madrid who displayed ‘multidisciplinary scholarship’ (he was a linguist, journalist, novelist, poet and ophthalmologist, among other interests). Rizal is remembered today for his writings and academic achievements as much as for his nationalism. By comparison, the brothers who took the name ‘Garr’ were the sons of a Filipino seafarer who had come from the provinces to Thursday Island and then Palmerston as a diver, growing up in the old ‘Police Paddock’ outside town.

Like Rizal though, the Garr boys were of mixed blood yet undeniably patriotic, albeit to their adopted homeland. Although of mixed Filipino and Welsh blood, they were British subjects and therefore eligible to enlist.

Rizal’s martyrdom in a glorious cause denied the world any further significant contributions. So too William and Matthew Garr can be seen as having followed the path of Rizal in having their years cut unreasonably short, finding their own form of martyrdom as soldiers in the AIF.

Private Guillermo Garr also fell in battle, but was offered the redemption that Rizal had wished for in his final farewell, Mi Último Adios, which he wrote on the eve of his execution: he not only returned to the front and was decorated for bravery, but served in uniform again during World War 2.
In commemorating and venerating José Rizal today, the Order of the Knights of Rizal has adopted and applied the motto *Non Omnis Moriar* (‘I shall not wholly die’). Equally, the three Garr brothers who saw active service are remembered today because their names appear on monuments and honour rolls throughout Australia and overseas – their mortal lives may have passed but they have ‘not altogether died’.

Paul A Rosenzweig

ThanksDigger@gmail.com


**Thanks Digger**

The ‘Thanks Digger’ Facebook page has been established as a tribute to all Australian Service personnel and others who have served in the defence of Australia and Australia’s interests.

[https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger](https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger) | ThanksDigger@gmail.com

**Captions**

**Image 1:** All four sons of Carlos and Mary Anne Ga were volunteers for the AIF in 1915 – pictured here, left to right: Privates Matthew Garr, Palencio Gar and Guillermo Garr MM.

**Image 2:** This is the Darwin Soldiers’ Monument, established by the Soldiers’ Monument Committee to honour the Northern Territory men who died on war service and unveiled on Sunday 24 April 1921, including Privates Matthew and William Garr.

**Image 3:** In 1968, Darwin City Council named ‘Garr Street’ in the suburb of Moil in honour of Matthew and William Garr.

**Image 4:** The names of 428 Private Matthew Garr and 3051 Private William Garr were included on brass panels at the base of the upgraded Darwin Cenotaph.
A Sea of Troubles: The Philippines and Pacific Geopolitics  
by GREGORY KUPSKY

Editor's Note:

On July 7, 2015 President Barack Obama hosted Nguyen Phu Trong, leader of the Vietnamese Communist Party, at the White House. This historic meeting was part of Obama's "pivot to Asia," a strategy to counter growing Chinese influence by engaging more deeply with other Asian nations. Nowhere is the tension with China felt more keenly than in the Philippines, the Asian nation with which the United States has a long and complicated relationship. This month historian Gregory Kupsky examines a century of Philippine attempts to define its nationality while facing often hostile and more powerful neighbors.

Read more on Asia from Origins: The China Dream; China and Africa; Remembering Tiananmen; Hong Kong; Taiwan's Politics; Japanese Nuclear Power; and North Korea.

In early 2013 I took a tour of Corregidor Island, at the mouth of Manila Bay. Our guide ushered us through the military ruins left over from the “American Period” of Philippine history. After touting the close relationship between our countries, the guide referred back to the Spaniards who had first fortified Corregidor centuries earlier.

I noted that the island did indeed provide a strategic vantage point over the entrance to the South China Sea. The conversation paused.

“Sir,” he said politely, “I believe you are referring to the West Philippine Sea.”

About a year later, President Barack Obama visited Manila to mark the signing of a new Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. He and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III hailed their countries’ 63-year-old alliance and framed the deal in terms of military training and humanitarian assistance.

They also emphasized what it would not do: it would not reopen American bases in the Philippines, nor was the intent to “contain China.” This statement came in response to questions about a mounting dispute with Beijing over islands to the west of the Philippines. While not explicitly backing Manila, Obama stressed his commitment to preserving stability in the South China Sea.

Somewhere, I assume, my tour guide cringed.

For the Philippines, the current territorial dispute with China is only the latest episode in a turbulent history defined largely by geography. Situated at the confluence of major trade routes, the archipelago has witnessed a long progression of confrontations, from Spanish and Muslim incursions in the fifteenth century to the Pacific theater of World War II.

Filipinos have long found themselves transformed by the external influences of China, Japan, and the United States. And Philippine nationalism has often struggled to assert itself against such international pressures and powers.
The Philippines’ relationship with the United States, the former colonizer that retains a strong presence, has been particularly complex. Historically Philippine leaders have resented American meddling in their affairs.

But, especially in recent years, they worry more about other, potentially worse, perceived threats, especially from neighbors closer geographically—as events in the South China (or West Philippine) Sea make clear.

**The “American Period” (1898-1941)**

Following their arrival in 1565, the Spanish quickly integrated the Philippines into their global network of trade. It was here that galleons unloaded Mexican silver and exchanged it for goods from China and Southeast Asia. In the process, the Spanish relied heavily on the services of Chinese brokers.

Numbering around 20,000 when the Spanish arrived, the Chinese in the Philippines had introduced rice as a staple, constructed the famous terraces of northern Luzon, and positioned themselves as a dominant merchant class.

By the late nineteenth century, however, there was evidence of growing resentment of both groups by the indigenous population. Calls for political separation from Spain began to grow alongside a movement to reclaim trades and industries from the Chinese.

In the decades leading up to its annexation of the Philippines, the United States was nowhere to be seen. Nineteenth-century Washington mostly maintained an unassuming role in the western Pacific, unable to compete with European power or Russian and Japanese proximity.

Even after Japan—forced by the U.S. Navy into the international arena in the 1850s—began to aspire to regional power, Washington welcomed the change, as a modernizing Japan could stabilize a region in which it had a natural interest. History, as we know, layers itself in ironies.

The American position in the Pacific changed fundamentally with the **Spanish-American War in 1898**. In May of that year, Commodore George Dewey crushed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay and American troops occupied the city proper. Filipino revolutionaries proclaimed an independent republic, but it quickly became apparent that the United States would not be leaving.

**Fighting erupted** between the revolutionary and American forces in February 1899. It lasted three years, killing 6,000 Americans and some 200,000 Filipinos before the revolutionary movement conceded. In the Muslim-dominated southern islands, violence continued for another decade.

The American presidential election in 1900 became a referendum on annexation and, by extension, a more assertive American presence in the Far East. William McKinley and the annexationists won the election, and the Philippines became an American territory. Tariff walls went up around the islands, in marked contrast to Washington’s Open Door Policy in China.

In the four decades of the “American Period,” the new administrators built a government, school system, and infrastructure in their own image. They generally won the acceptance of the populace, though talk of independence persisted in Philippine political discourse.
Geopolitically, annexation gave the United States a territory in the region and provided a springboard to Asia. In 1899, when the Boxer Rebellion in China targeted Westerners, 2,500 U.S. soldiers quickly traversed the South China Sea to help suppress the rebels. Similarly, in 1918 an abortive American intervention in the Russian Civil War was staged from Manila.

Philippine bases thus facilitated the projection of American power, portending what to follow in 1945.

The Japanese Threat

The timeline of American ambition in the western Pacific coincided roughly with that of Japan, perhaps making a fight over the Philippines inevitable.

To expansionists in Tokyo, the Philippines seemed a colony underutilized by the United States. Meanwhile, economic opportunities drew growing numbers of Japanese migrants southward to Davao, on the island of Mindanao. So rapid was this growth that the Filipino nationalist press, which had long scapegoated the Chinese, shifted its ire to Japan in the 1920s and 1930s.

Pushing into Formosa (Taiwan), Korea, and eventually China, Japan made a bid for regional leadership, sometimes comparing its position to that of the United States in the Caribbean. American policymakers such as Theodore Roosevelt were unimpressed by such an argument. In fact, they began to rethink the level of deference that Washington had hitherto shown Japan in the Far East.

As Japan grew more aggressive, even some American imperialists began to see the Philippines as a liability. In 1907 Theodore Roosevelt pondered whether the islands formed a “heel of Achilles.” After World War I, American planners assumed the loss of the archipelago in the event of a conflict with Japan.

Such fears coincided with a renewed push for Philippine sovereignty on both sides of the Pacific. After much political jockeying in Manila and Washington, the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934 promised independence in 1946 and created a Commonwealth in the interim.

The new government received Major General Douglas MacArthur as military adviser in 1935. He remained following his retirement from the U.S. Army in 1937, striving in vain to acquire the resources for a national defense system. In July 1941, Washington recalled MacArthur to active duty, gave him a third star, and placed him in command of U.S. Army forces in the Far East. He spent the next several months in a desperate effort to reinforce the islands’ defenses.

Japanese raids caught MacArthur’s forces flatfooted at Clark Air Base within ten hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Two weeks later the Japanese invaded northern Luzon, and by New Year’s Day 1942 the Fil-American troops were holed up on the Bataan peninsula.

The defenders held out longer than expected in the face of disease, dwindling supplies, and the Japanese onslaught. They finally surrendered on April 9, 1942, placing 70,000 prisoners in Japanese hands.

The headquarters on Corregidor followed on May 6. It would be twenty-nine months before conventional Allied ground forces returned to the Philippines.
Washington was forced to yield to Japan in the short term, subordinating the Pacific campaign to larger global aspirations, as best encapsulated by the “Europe First” strategy.

To Filipinos who had accepted American rule and resisted the Japanese invasion, the calculation was difficult to accept. Manuel Quezon, president of the Philippine Commonwealth, could not restrain his anger: “How typical of America to writhe in anguish at the fate of a distant cousin, Europe, while a daughter, the Philippines, is being raped in the back room!”

Having been ordered to Australia in early 1942, General MacArthur was nearly single-minded in his determination to avenge his defeat, however.

While awaiting his return, Filipino guerrillas—of the sort that had battled MacArthur’s father at the turn of the century—now fought alongside Americans who had evaded capture. They smuggled aid to prisoners of war, ambushed Japanese patrols, and transmitted intelligence to MacArthur’s command.

As a result, when the U.S. Army and Navy returned in October 1944, they were well informed on the strength and location of the Japanese defenders.

It is a testament to the geographical importance of the Philippines that Japan poured precious resources into its defense.

Offshore from the American landings on Leyte, the largest naval battle in history took place in a failed attempt to cut off the beachheads. The Philippines was also the birthplace of kamikaze attacks, and the Japanese employed the costly, to-the-death tactics that would characterize the rest of their war effort.

The outcome was virtually assured, however. Manila returned to American control in February 1945—albeit with horrific civilian losses—and the Japanese defenders were driven into the mountains, where they remained until the end of the war. General MacArthur presided over the restoration of the Commonwealth government on February 27.

**Cold War Pragmatism: Between the U.S., Soviet Union, and China**

On July 4, 1946, the United States delivered on the promise of independence, but as the Cold War came into full swing there was no question about whose sphere claimed the Philippines.

One of the first milestones of Fil-American relations was an $800 million aid package, predicated on the acceptance of a trade agreement that heavily favored U.S. economic interests in the country. The deal enshrined the “parity” rule, by which Americans enjoyed the same property ownership rights as Filipinos.

In March 1947, the two nations signed the Military Bases Agreement, granting the U.S. long-term leases on twenty-three installations, most importantly Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. The treaty also stipulated that American servicemen accused of crimes would be tried in U.S. military courts.

Four years later, a Mutual Defense Treaty obligated each country to aid the other in case of attack. In 1954, Manila hosted the meetings that created the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), the Pacific analog to NATO.

While official relations were thus strong between the two allies, there was plenty in these agreements to provoke nationalistic resentment among Filipinos.

If the turn-of-the-century Philippines had provided a waystation for U.S. activity in Asia, now the archipelago became a keystone of a global foreign policy.

A permanent American presence served as a counterweight to the Soviet Union and Communist China. The American bases, especially Clark and Subic, were major support hubs in both the Korea and Vietnam conflicts. They supported various other types of intervention, from shows of force off Taiwan to
the failed 1980 attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran.

In exchange for hosting the bases, Manila gained a powerful ally in maintaining domestic stability. The primary threat to that stability was the Hukbalahap (or “Huks”), an alliance of leftist, agrarian revolutionaries formed in 1942 to resist the Japanese.

During the war the Huks often collaborated with American-led guerrillas, but their Maoist leanings and opposition to U.S.-backed leaders led to considerable friction, at times inducing bloodshed. After the Japanese surrender, the Huks revolted in northern and central Luzon, sapping the strength of the new Philippine government.

The U.S. military aided the fight against the Huk insurgency, both to safeguard its installations and to make the base agreement more palatable to the host nation.

Manila thus relied heavily on Washington to solve some of its internal problems. The Vietnam war, however, reversed that equation.

President Ferdinand Marcos, elected in 1965, vocally supported the American war effort, but—despite significant pressure from President Lyndon Johnson—contributed only a small civil affairs contingent of around 2,000 troops. Citing the need to maintain domestic security in this all-important hub for the U.S. military, Marcos kept the vast majority of his troops at home while receiving still more aid.

During a visit to the White House in September 1966 he even leveraged renegotiation of an old nationalist sore spot, the lease on the American bases. He reduced the term from ninety-nine to twenty-five years, up for renewal in 1991. So valuable did Johnson and his successors consider Marcos’s support that they consistently overlooked the corruption for which his regime is now infamous.

All the while cooperating with the United States, Marcos burnished his nationalist credentials.

In his 1970 State of the Nation address, he stressed the need for a “re-orientation” away from the “marked colonial characteristics” of Philippine foreign policy. Along with revising the bases agreement, Marcos was a major advocate for a multinational “Asian Forum” to settle regional disputes without external intervention.

The Philippines became a charter member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), founded in 1967 to foster regional stability and cooperation. To the chagrin of the United States, Marcos did not align ASEAN with American interests, but forged close ties with Japan and, to some extent, China.

In 1974, Marcos even did away with the parity provision granting Americans property rights. Nonetheless, Washington remained steadfast in backing the Marcos regime.

Playing to nationalist sentiment, Marcos amended the base deal again in 1979. The United States acknowledged Filipino sovereignty over the facilities, ceded unused land, allowed the installation of Filipino commanders, and agreed to review the agreement every five years. In exchange, Marcos quietly agreed to the “unhampered” use of the bases, presumed by critics to mean the transfer and storage of nuclear armaments.

By the 1980s, accusations of corruption and repression mounted, and the Marcos regime’s days were numbered.
A growing opposition ignited on August 21, 1983, when Benigno Aquino, Jr., Marcos’s exiled political rival, was assassinated as he stepped off a commercial jet at the Manila Airport. The administration generally received the blame, perhaps nowhere more than in U.S. public opinion.

In February 1986, Marcos stepped down in the face of the “People Power” Revolution in Manila. Tellingly, he first sought refuge on Clark Air Base, then lived out the final three years of his life in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The United States retained strong ties to the Philippines after Marcos, but with the waning of the Communist threat, resentment over the American bases grew.

Finally, in September 1991, the Philippine Senate stunned Washington when it rejected the renewal of the Military Bases Agreement by one vote. The subsequent eruption of Mount Pinatubo, which did extensive damage to Clark and Subic, hastened the closure of the facilities.

By August 1992—ninety-four years after Commodore Dewey steamed into Manila Bay—the Americans were gone. Military aid dropped off, jobs on the bases vanished, and the legendary red light districts around Subic and Clark were left to find new customers.

Coinciding roughly with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the base closures marked an unprecedented low in Fil-American relations.

A partial shift occurred ten years later, on September 11, 2001, when the Philippines became one of the first nations to sign on to the War on Terror.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo offered the U.S. access to its former bases at Clark and Subic, and she agreed to bring in American advisers to combat terrorist groups in the southern, predominantly Muslim regions of the Philippines. With a nod to the fiftieth anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty, Arroyo depicted the arrangement as one of continuity, overlooking the previous decade.

American foreign policy once again meshed with internal threats to Philippine security, though the scale of intervention—fewer than a thousand advisers—was a far cry from the heyday of Fil-American cooperation.

Fully reversing the trend would require a greater threat to Philippine sovereignty. As it turned out, one was already coalescing off Luzon’s western shores.
I found this article in the Summer edition of Veterans Affairs news. I found it very relevant and should be advertised more. Ed

Their medals are rightly on the left

Next time you see a woman wearing her medals on the left, please thank her for her service.

That’s the message members of the Women Veterans Network Australia (WVNA) seek to promote through their By the Left campaign in the lead-up to Anzac Day (the title is a play on words as ‘by the left’ is also a phrase of command used when marching).

The campaign will encourage women veterans to march together en masse in major centres all over the country on Anzac Day to raise awareness of their contribution to the Australian Defence Force.

Campaign organiser Kellie Dadds, a veteran who has been deployed eight times, says women veterans regularly find themselves wrongly challenged in person or via social media about wearing their husband’s/father’s/grandfather’s medals on the wrong side, an offensive slur that has upset some women veterans so much they’ve stopped attending commemorative events altogether.

Given some 15 per cent of the total permanent serving ADF are women, there is potential for thousands of women to be hurt by such comments.

‘Many female veterans no longer march on significant occasions such as Anzac Day, and many have also distanced themselves from the veteran community citing a sense of not belonging due to not feeling recognised as a veteran,’ Ms Dadds said at DVA’s second Female Veterans Policy Forum (FVPF) in October.

She believes that with the support of the WVNA and other ex-service organisations, the By the Left campaign will increase recognition of female veterans.

‘Female veterans do not want to be different, we want to be viewed the same – as veterans,’ she says.

‘But to achieve this, we must first be seen.’

Greater recognition for women veterans was one of the key issues Ms Dadds wanted to raise at the FVPF, an event that allows women veterans to provide their input on future directions for DVA and learn about the Department’s Veteran Centric Reform program. Other topics discussed included recognition of female-specific conditions, the health needs of women veterans generally, the involvement of families in transition from the ADF to civilian life, the definition of a veteran and providing support for victims of domestic violence.

Ms Dadds hopes to remove the barriers that separate veteran groups during the Anzac Day march.

‘We would like to encourage as many females as possible to march as one group on Anzac Day regardless of their affiliation,’ she says.

‘We believe that a large group of women marching together will send a very powerful image, as opposed to very small numbers of females marching amongst 70 to 80 different groups.’

Several DVA Female Veterans Policy Forum attendees had been challenged about wearing their medals on the left, including Lucy Wong, a former RAAF peacekeeper whose service was questioned on social media in September during a week of commemorations marking 70 years of Australian peacekeeping.

A photo on Facebook of Ms Wong at a function attended by the Governor-General attracted an online comment from a serving ADF member along the lines of: ‘Who’s that woman in the background? Is she wearing her husband’s medals on the wrong side?’

Ms Wong, who is the NSW & ACT Vice President and Welfare Advocate Sydney Metro of the Australian
Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association, was devastated.
‘After 20-odd years of service, I’ve earnt the right to wear my medals on the left,’ she says.
Ms Wong noted that it’s not just women who face scenarios such as these. Younger men and those from culturally diverse backgrounds have also been on the receiving end, facing assumptions that because they don’t fit a certain stereotype, they could not have earned the medals they are wearing.
‘It’s important to respect rather than question a veteran’s service,’ Ms Wong says.
‘The face of veterans is evolving … the changing face of veterans these days is multicultural.’
Ms Dadds said she appreciated why the question was raised.
‘It’s a very significant thing, being a veteran and having the privilege of representing your country and wearing medals, so they think they’re doing the right thing by protecting that tradition and that right.
‘But people need to acknowledge that the way we look as a veteran is quite diverse.’
So how should you respond as a veteran if you are questioned about the position of your medals?
The By the Left campaigners reckon the best possible response is to smile and say, ‘Thank you, but these are mine, and I earnt them.’
The flyer on the left has been sent to us by the Victoria State Branch. If any member/guest who lives in Victoria would like to attend and represent our Sub Branch, please contact the organizer/s direct.
BIKE WEEK ANGELES CITY
MARCH 2ND-4TH, 2018
FRIDAY 3PM TO CLOSE
SATURDAY 5PM TO CLOSE
SUNDAY 10AM TO 5PM
CDC PICNIC GROUND
NEXT TO EL KABAYO RIDING STABLES
WIN A
ACE CROSSOVER
250CC MOTORCYCLE
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Do not forget, if dialing ‘in-country’ add in a 0 before the number

“THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE”
Lest We Forget
Call to order: at 1400 hrs.

The secretary advised the President that we did not have a quorum

To show respect to fallen comrades President Bob Barnes Recited the Ode to the fallen.

Attendance 14 as registered (Including 2 visitor2)

Apologies:  VP Gary Barnes

New members/transfers: None present

Visitors:-
Anthony Fuljek, Dean Stojakovic

President’s address:-
After waiting the prescribed time as per State Rules and By-Laws (13.0B) the President adjourned the general meeting to February 19th at 1400 hrs.

The raffle was drawn, Lucky Steve Innes won.
With Australia Day just a couple of days past, it may be timely to remind those Australians who have been a long time out of the country, and those other nationals who strive to understand Australians in a conversation, below is list of sayings in the Australian strine and vernacular. Good luck!!

Crikey, what a little bewdy!
What a marvellous specimen.
What a stinker of a day!
It's a hot day!
Bog in and have some tucker.
Let's eat.
He was spewin'!
Very unhappy/agitated.
Take a squizz at this.
Have a look.
Give it a burl.
Go on, try it.
As mad as a cut snake.
Very angry.
Strewth!
What a surprise!

It's carked it.
It's dead/doesn't work.
Way out to billy-o!
A long way
What a rip-snorter!
It's fantastic!
Flat out like a lizard drinkin'.
Very busy.
We're up the creek!
In trouble
It's gone walkabout.
It's lost, can't be found.
She looked like a stunned mullet!
She was shocked.
I reckon!
Yes, absolutely.
It's ridgie didge!
Genuine, true

Some Days It's Hard To Find Motivation

Some Days Motivation Finds You!!