

War Correspondent Recalls Dramatic Battle For Manila

Editor's note: Ten years ago, jubilant American troops smashed into Manila's Santo Tomas University to liberate thousands of civilians held captive by the Japanese. Today, Filipinos have renewed their resolve to stand with the United States at another critical hour in the Far East. Here is a story of the liberation by an AP war correspondent who was interned there, repatriated, but returned with U.S. troops to be in on the freeing of fellow internees.

By RUSSELL BRINES
Associated Press Writer

The armored column shot out of the blood-red sunset, wheeled past machine gun fire and rammed through the front gate of Santo Tomas University in flaming Manila.

It was 6:30 p.m., Feb. 3, 1945—a hallowed moment, a dangerous moment.

The sudden thrust, by a flying unit of the 1st Cavalry Division, started the liberation of thousands of American and British civilian prisoners of the Japanese.

It triggered the battle of Manila—one of the most vicious engagements of the Pacific war.

The stories, the memories and the heartaches of that battle—symbol of the cruel venom of city fighting—live on today in the Orient, as it watches new tension between West and East.

Ironically, the man who led the grim and grimy cavalymen into Manila is the same man who now stands technically in front of infantry forces defending Formosa—Maj. Gen. William C. Chase, head of the U.S. military mission to the Chinese Nationalists at Taipei.

His flying column, that hot day a decade ago, reached the Santo Tomas internment camp after a wild dash through half a Japanese army, on a mission to rescue the internees.

The lead tank, a monster in the half-gloom, blasted at the Japanese guard, then butted down the gate fronting the Spanish-style university that had been home and prison to more than 3,000 men, women and children for just over three years.

Triumphant GIs popped from the turret and shouted to a handful of prisoners—scarcely in patched clothes—who had been attracted by the shots.

Then in tears and sobs and stunned disbelief—for starvation dulls the mind—liberation came to those who had dreamed of it, hoped for it, sometimes despaired of it, for so long.

But there was a cruel finale. The flying column, short of gasoline and ammunition and temporarily cut off from the main body of advancing American forces, had to remain within the compound.

Within hours, Japanese guns began raking the three-story university building and the little wooden shanties which the internees had built for homes across its campus.

And so the memories of triumph are dusted with ashes:

A battle-marked sergeant tenderly tempting a scrawny prison child with chocolate . . . a woman blown apart by an artillery shell because, during a barrage, she rushed back

into her room to save her prize possession—a faded, worthless dress . . . diamond-bright tears of joy in the eyes of a woman prisoner whose husband came in with the flying column . . . the rail-thin frame of a once robust businessman, shaking weakly with a new joke—the last he made before dying the next day . . .

Even then, the battle in the city outside was building up to a crescendo of terror.

A suicide garrison, built around ruthless Japanese marines, holed up within the six foot-thick walls of the old Spanish city, the intramuros.

The garrison began, with systematic brutality, to carry out a previous threat of punishing the Filipinos if they helped the Americans, pouring down two highways toward Manila.

Men, women and children were driven into frame houses, which were set afire, and machine gunned if they fled. They were shot in churches. They were bayoneted.

Then American fire power reached into the city, and a jungle war,

a last-man war, roared through its streets and buildings.

For days, the city shook constantly with hammering artillery fire. Air attacks were outlawed, to save Filipino civilians. But big guns were turned with pinpoint accuracy on every Japanese position—the fine, new legislative buildings; the ancient churches; clubs and hotels.

Then the infantry went in. They crossed the sluggish Pasig river and fought, yard-by-yard, through the Intramuros. In one building, Americans held one room, and Japanese dropped hand grenades through cracks in the second-story floor.

Now, bustling Manila, completely rebuilt and sparkling, has few physical scars of war.

But the memories are there. And they must come back to many men, as the Philippines announce again their resolve to stand with the United States in the Far East.

For the air power that set up the Japanese invasion—and led to the battle of Manila—came from Formosa.

Engineers Librarian In Europe For Study

Robert E. Betts, librarian of the Texas Engineers Library at A&M, has arrived in Europe for a nine-month study tour of the important centers of learning in ten countries. He sailed aboard the Queen Mary on Jan. 15 after visiting relatives in Raleigh, N. C.

The Texas Engineers Library is cooperatively sponsored by the college and the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. It occupies the Gibb Gilchrist building on the campus housing nearly 30,000 volumes of technical and scientific publications.

Betts recently authored articles in two magazines, The Library Journal and Texas Professional Engineer.

On the trip abroad he expects to do library research at London, Cambridge University, Southampton, Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield in England. He plans study also at the Technical Institute of Zurich, Switzerland, and the famous University of Delft in Holland.

His itinerary will include visits to libraries in Rome, Milano, Torino, Venice and Florence in Italy, as well as leading institutions in Spain, France, Germany, Scotland and the Scandinavian countries.

Betts will climax his trip by attending the International Conference of Librarians in Brussels in September. Later he will attend a librarians conference in London before returning to the United States late in October.

He received his BA degree from

the University of North Carolina and his degree in library science from Peabody College in Nashville. His graduate work in English literature was taken at Columbia University.

He was associated with the Library of Congress both in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Army Medical Section, and in libraries at Iowa Wesleyan and University of Idaho before coming to A&M in 1948.

Betty Bateman, who joined the Engineers Library staff a year ago, will be acting librarian during Betts' absence.

Plant School Starts At A&M Feb. 7

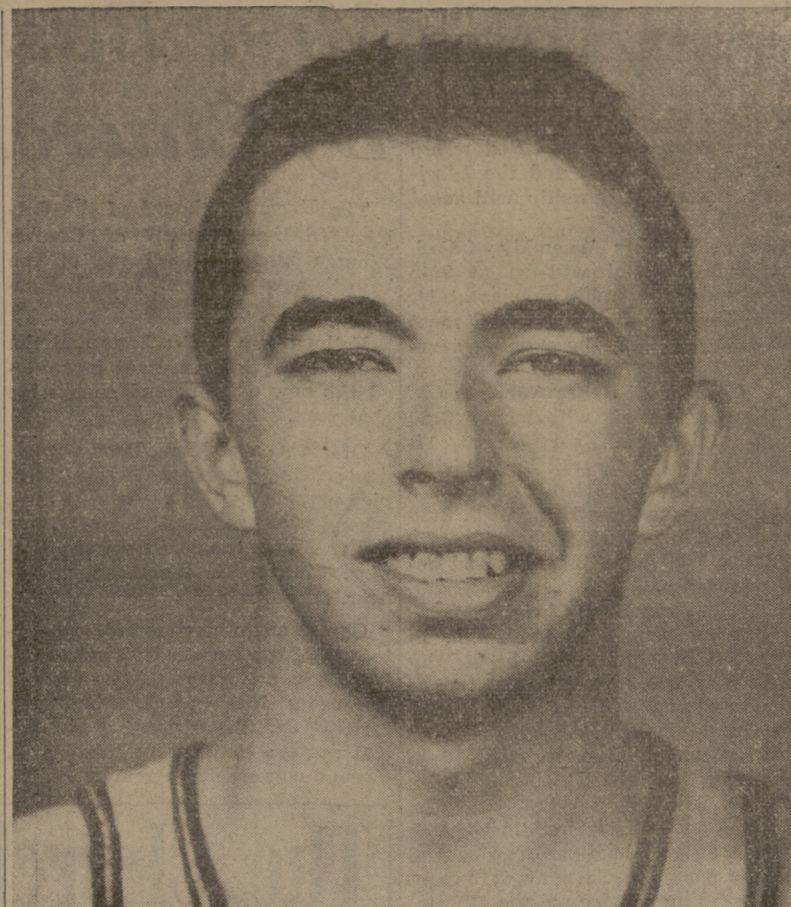
The first meeting of the Industrial Plant Protection school will be held on the campus Feb. 7-11.

The school will seek to provide industrial plant protection personnel with practical training in all phases and procedures related to plant security, said Wallace D. Beasley, director of the school.

The school will be conducted by the Texas engineering extension service under the sponsorship of the Industrial Plant Protection association of Texas.

Shepperd To Speak

John Ben Shepperd, Texas attorney general, will be the principal speaker at the initiation banquet of Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism fraternity at A&M, Feb. 18. Twenty A&M students are due to be initiated into the fraternity.



LOST FOR SEASON—Roger Harvey, probably A&M's top defensive basketball player, reinjured a knee in practice and has been lost to the team for the rest of the season. Coach John Floyd said Harvey, 5-11 guard from Denison, was rapidly developing into one of the leading defenders in the conference and was A&M's fourth ranking scorer with 108 points.

Texas Forest Service Sets Fall Research Fellowships

The Texas Forest Service, a part of the A&M System, announces the availability of three research fellowships effective Sept. 1, 1955. The fellowships will be granted to candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of forest genetics, forest physiology or wood technology (anatomy). The amount of each fellowship is \$1765 a year on a 12-month basis for resident students and \$2080 per year for out-of-state students.

Candidates holding a master's degree in a plant science are preferred. The candidates may major in either the A&M department of biology, plant physiology or genetics.

The research fellowships are part of the Texas Forest Service's forest tree improvement program under the direction of Dr. Bruce Zobel of the Research and Education Department. The Texas Forest Service will provide office, laboratory, greenhouse, lathe house space and equipment for the recipients of the fellowships. Apartments owned by the College are available at a nominal rent to accommodate married students.

Funds for support of the fellowships have been made possible through donations by units of the forest products industries. Moneys received from these contributors are used not only for the fellowships but also for other tree improvement research of the Texas Forest Service.

For further information regarding the fellowships, inquiries should be addressed to Dr. A. D. Folweiler, director, Texas Forest Service, or Dr. Ide P. Trotter, dean of the graduate school.

Former Students Infantry Grads

Three A&M graduates, class of 1954, recently were graduated from the Infantry School's basic infantry officers course at Fort Benning, Ga.

They are Second Lt. Rowe D. Caldwell jr., of Del Valle; Second Lt. Gene A. Smith of Rockport and Second Lt. Rupert E. Buckalew of Dallas. They entered the service last September.

Designed for officers who have not served with troops, the course gave the lieutenants instruction in the tasks and problems of an infantry unit commander.

Enterprise Profits Used For Expansion

"The American System of free enterprise is great because, among other things it reinvests a large percentage of its profits in the tools of production," a noted industrialist and business man said last week at A&M.

"Today," the speaker, Raymond E. Olson, president of the Taylor Instrument companies of Rochester, N. Y., declared, "the annual output of industrial instruments is in the vicinity of 200 million dollars." He gave the opening talk at the tenth annual Symposium on Instrumentation for the Process Industries.

Olson said that "in 1931 our output was plowed back to replace resources and capital equipment—that is the 'tools of production' used up or worn out during the year."

The speaker declared that in 1851 "the year our economy was established the estimated work energy output of the country was 12 billions of horse power-hours; today it is estimated to be in excess of 400 billion of horsepower-hours. In 1851," he said, "73 per cent of the energy was supplied by animals and human beings; in 1954 about 5 per cent of the energy output was supplied by animals and human beings and the rest by tools of production—that is 95 per cent of our 400 billion horsepower-hours are produced by tools."

In spite of the vastly reduced use of men's muscles, employment, Olson said, "exceeds 60 million people. In the chemical and oil industries today each employee commands approximately \$50,000 in equipment."

The symposium was conducted by the college's department of chemical engineering. Dr. C. D. Holland was general chairman. More than 300 persons from throughout Texas and other states attended.

Dr. J. P. Abbott, dean of the college, gave the welcome address.

"This was one of the most successful and best attended Symposia on Instrumentation Process Industries we have ever held," Holland said Friday at the close of the three-day meeting.

Top-flight men of the industry from all over the United States attended the symposium. The \$100,000 exhibit of instruments, placed on display in the Memorial Student Center, drew wide attention.

Konecny Named To Extension Assistantship

F. J. (Jack) Konecny has been named executive assistant to H. D. Bearden, vice-director of the Texas Engineering Extension Service, A&M System. His appointment was effective Feb. 1.

He has been with the Texas Education Agency at Austin for the past nine years and is chief consultant for the industrial education department of the vocational education division of the agency.

Konecny is a graduate of A&M, holding a master's degree in industrial education and a BS degree in mechanical engineering.

Prior to his employment with the Texas Education Agency he served in the industrial vocational fields as teacher or official in the public schools of Austin, Corpus Christi, El Paso and with Arlington State College, Florida State University and at Oklahoma A&M College. He also has had wide experience as a mechanical engineer and manager of several industries and business concerns.

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