

Filipino Nurse Pays Tribute to A Camera Hero

By Jack Price

A recent story by Frank Kelley, *New York Herald Tribune* war correspondent, on the burial of Signal Corps Photographer Sgt. Harold Hoffman, in the village of Barongan, Samar, Philippines, is one of the most impressive we have read.

Sgt. Hoffman was wounded fatally Nov. 16 in the jungle of Samar Island while taking photos of a group of guerrillas ambushing a detachment of Japanese soldiers. He had been accompanying the small band of Filipinos for days, recording their activities against enemy snipers. While running across a small bridge which was in the open, he was shot down by a sniper, but before losing consciousness he opened fire on the enemy with a rifle he had picked up from a dead Jap soldier.

John Brennan, correspondent of the *Sydney (Aus.) Bulletin*, rushed to the bridge and carried Hoffman to cover where he gave first-aid to the wounded cameraman. He summoned several volunteer Filipino nurses, who did their best for Hoffman. But the cameraman died the following day.

Before leaving the scene shortly after Hoffman died, Estrella Tilong, one of the nurses, left a crumpled paper which was packed with closely-written lines, in long hand. It was a tribute to the dead sergeant and in part, as quoted by Kelley, read as follows:

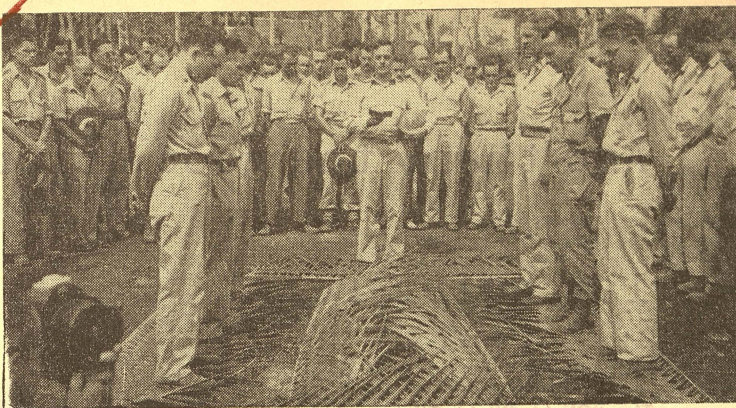
Nameless to Her

"I do not know your name. They say you were a war photographer. They say you were shot in the neck, in the Village of Barongan, Province of Samar, Philippines. They say you wanted to take pictures of the enemy hiding under a wooden bridge and that you did not know there were also enemies on the hill nearby so they got you.

"Now you are dead. I saw you covered with a brown blanket and lying on the floor of a nipa hut under the coconut trees. You seemed so all alone lying there in the tropical sun. Maybe you have a mother or a sweetheart or a sister at home. But they are so far away. You have died on foreign soil so far from home. No wreath is there to adorn your room. No friends to accompany you to your grave to throw the last pebble on your mound as a last token of adieu. None but a handful of your countrymen to walk with you the last mile.

"And now as you are being carried to your last resting place we bid you farewell with a silent prayer and unshed tears. O Lord, if we could only cry."

We got sentimental when we read the story and the letter of the Filipino nurse, but when we stop and think of the accomplishments of the Signal Corps



LAST RITES FOR PRIST

CAPT. HOWARD J. JOHNSON, chaplain, conducts funeral service at the palm-covered grave on Leyte Island of Frank Prist, Jr., Acme Newspictures photographer, killed by a Jap sniper Nov. 12. The guard of honor are (l. to r.): Maj. Phil North, Fort Worth, Tex.; Clifford Bottomley, Australian Department of Information photographer; Frank Smith, Chicago Times; Earl Dickinson, United Press; and Lee Van Atta, International News Service.

cameramen, we are not ashamed of our feelings. Those men are operating on every tough front of this war and although many of their pictures are published in the press, the bulk of their achievements are filed in the Army's picture morgue.

Only on rare occasions do we hear of the exploits of the Army photographers but to fully appreciate their efforts and the risks they take in obtaining their pictures, one has but to scan the many thousands of great photos now catalogued in the Army Pictorial Service files. Surely, this visual pictorial history speaks for itself and one cannot view those photos without giving a thought to the men who made them.

A great living tribute can be paid to those Signal Corps photographers who return, by the offer of a helping hand in placing them in jobs where they can perform worthwhile service in the field of news photography. For most of them will have graduated from the post-graduate course in the academy of experience.

Kunde Has Plans

PVT. ROBERT KUNDE, former photographer for the *Waterbury (Conn.) Republican*, who lost his left leg as a result of wounds sustained in a mortar shell explosion in Italy, is to take specialized Army training to fit him for a career as a commercial photographer.

Young Lensman

DOUGLAS HOOPER, student photographer at Weber College, Ogden, Utah, has been added to the *Standard-Examiner* photography department, assisting Dorothy Porter. This young camera knight is only 19, being among the youngest cameramen to work on the paper.

Britannica Contest

DEADLINE for the receipt of entries in the second annual contest for the best news photographs of the year, sponsored by the Encyclopaedia Britannica Book of the Year, has been ex-

tended from Jan. 2 to Jan. 15, it is announced by E. H. Powell, president of the Britannica.

Three prizes are to be awarded again this year, with the first being a set of the encyclopaedia, \$100 in cash and an illuminated certificate. The second prize will be \$50 and an illuminated certificate, and the third, \$25 and an illuminated certificate. Pictures taken during the calendar year 1944 should be submitted to the News Photo Contest Editor of the Britannica Book of the Year at 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6.

Newman Head Man

CHARLES NEWMAN of the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* was elected president of the Press Photographers Association of that city at a meeting which took place recently at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Other officers elected include: William Irving of the *Inquirer*, vice-president; Joe Drelling, of Universal Newsreel, retained the secretarial post; Frank P. Montone, of the *Bulletin*, treasurer; Charles James of the *Record*, now a serviceman, secretary, and Arthur Bergey, *Inquirer*, sergeant-at-arms.

Better Libel Protection Sought in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 18—Changes in Wisconsin's libel law to bolster a newspaper's defense in the field of retractions are being urged by the Wisconsin Daily Newspaper League.

The legislative program was adopted by the league at its annual meeting at the Hotel Lorraine recently, after the members heard discussions of libel statutes by Wade Boardman, league legal counsel, and Frank Thayer, University of Wisconsin School of Journalism.

Officers unanimously elected at the meeting were: Harry LePoidevin, *Racine Times-Journal*; president; Arne Schroeder, *Fond du Lac Commonwealth Reporter*, vice-president; and William T. Burgess, *La Crosse Tribune*, secretary-treasurer.

W. L. McLean Liberty Ship Is Launched

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 18—After two days' delay due to high winds that blew tides in the Savannah River downstream, the Liberty ship William L. McLean, named for the man who was president and publisher of the *Philadelphia Bulletin* from 1895 until his death in 1931, finally was christened and successfully launched at the yards of the Southeastern Shipbuilding Corporation last week.

Adverse weather conditions put a crimp in the ceremonials in other directions. Robert McLean, president of the Bulletin Co. and of the Associated Press, a son of the man honored, was grounded in Philadelphia by unfavorable flying conditions and was unable to get here. Also prevented from attending were Mrs. John S. Williams, of Old Chatham, N. Y., a sister, and Mrs. Robert McLean, who had expected to fly down.

William L. McLean, the younger son of the late publisher, who is vice-president and treasurer of the Bulletin Co., arrived last Sunday for a launching that was scheduled to be staged Monday evening. Also representing the Bulletin was Howard W. Stodghill, business manager.

The ship was christened by Mrs. Hazel Palmer, wife of a borough councilman of Athens, Pa., who was the nominee of her 14-year-old son Leslie. The boy won the privilege of naming his mother as sponsor by selling more War Stamps than other newspaper carrier boys in the ICMA district comprising Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Leslie delivers the *Sayre (Pa.) Times*.

William L. McLean, Jr., in memory of his father, presented to the ship in the name of the employees of the Bulletin, a Merchant Marine library, consisting of carefully-chosen technical, fiction and non-fiction books. Briefly he expressed for his family their pride in the ship and thanks for the honor. Mr. Stodghill spoke briefly, declaring the new vessel "bears a distinguished name and honors a notable newspaper career."

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