

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 4/20/88 983078

FORT SANTIAGO, HISTORY OF

MISC - 13

DECLASSIFIED

Authority UNO 883078

J. G. SLACLE
TEAM LEADER

ADJUTANT-GENERAL
RECORDS-DEPOSITORY



J. G. SLACLE
TEAM LEADER

History of

PORT SANTIAGO

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 883078

CONTENTS

Fort Santiago

History of Fort Santiago

Map and Legend During Japanese Occupation

Sketch and Description of Fort Santiago
Gate or Archway

History of Santo Domingo Church

Pre-War Map of Intramuros (Walled City)

Published by the AQRD Officers' Club Entertainment Committee.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 4ND 883078

F O R T S A N T I A G O

The historical old fortress of Manila, overlooking the mouth of the Pasig River, was more than three hundred and fifty years, the stronghold of the Spanish military forces in Manila. It has been under the flags of four different nations and possibly fifth, if the new Republic of the Philippines eventually takes control of the Fort and makes of a monument to a spectacular and bloodstained historical back ground. The Fort stands on near the site of the original fort of Rajah Soliman, whom the Spaniards dislodged when they captured the city in 1570. The building of the present Fort was begun in 1582 and had undergone very little change, since its completion, prior to the destruction caused by the reoccupation of American Forces in World War II.

Fort Santiago derives its name from the patron saint of Spain, Santiago de Apostol and it is well to note too, that the second Spanish Governor of the Philippines, and under whose direction the first stones of the Fort were laid, was named Santiago de Vera. The Fort is rich in traditions and many stories or accounts are related of the use to which its musty cells, chambers, and under-ground dungeon were put. It is well known too, that Dr. Jose Rizal, the Filipino martyr, was imprisoned there on his last day before being led to his execution on the Old Luneta on December 30, 1896.

The first American flag was raised officially in Fort Santiago on August 13, 1898, and a plaque to commemorate this eventful day rests atop the ramp leading up to what is now Fort Santiago Theater, located at the Southwest corner of the Fort.

Since the reoccupation by American Forces the Fort has served as a Transportation Corps Depot, servicing all army vessels in this theater.

HISTORY OF FORT SANTIAGO

In relating an account or brief history of Fort Santiago, we must go back to the twelfth century when the first fearless mariner discovered a chain of islands across the China sea inhabited by "Saracens". He reported these as peaceful people, but the next account of them tells of Sulu pirates and "savages" who lived by fighting and plunder.

When Magallanes (Magellan) again discovered the Islands in 1521, he found a people who know how to fight, and lost his life at their hands on Mactan Island near the Island of Cebu. On a second expedition headed by Legaspi, a Spanish settlement was established on the Island of Cebu. Great difficulty was had in maintaining peace with the inhabitants, so when report was received of a large island called Luzon with a great bay and a sturdy people, Legaspi dispatched an expeditionary force under command of Captain Martin de Goiti and Juan de Salcedo to investigate. When this expedition arrived in the year 1570 opposite the town of Manila, a rude but strong wooden palisade was already erected by the natives at the south side of the mouth of the Pasig River, and there were twelve bronze cannon, of native manufacture, mounted for the defense of the place. All of this furnishes good ground for belief that Fort Santiago has a history that may be traced back past the dawn of Modern Philippine history to the time when the first group of Malaysians were gathered by the Pasig under the leadership of a Mohammedan Rajah, and built a log enclosure for defense against other peoples about them. The mouth of the river was always the strategic position of the whole country, and on that same spot Fort Santiago stands today as a monument to the Philippine Islands.

Accounts differ a little as to just what happened when Salcedo's expedition sailed into the bay of Manila. Fr Juan de la Concepcion says that Rajah Soliman rallied his forces and manned his twelve bronze guns in the palisade and made a goodly defense of the place, but the besiegers were victorious and set fire to the city and afterward captured Cavite. Another account states that surrender was made without opposition, the cannon were captured and taken to Panay, a treaty was made and signed in blood by Salcedo and Rajah Soliman, and the expedition returned to Cebu.

When Legaspi, adelantado or knight-proprietor of the Philippines, heard of the fine location and great bay of Manila, he at once made preparations to shift his headquarters, and in April 1571, he took the city, and found it empty, as the inhabitants had fled after setting fire to their houses.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 883078

Legaspi soon placated the Rajah, and on May 19, 1571 founded the city of Manila, and the written history of Fort Santiago began. The old palisade was at once strengthened, and the natives were commanded to build a wall about the place, and to erect quarters for the governor and the soldiers, but the work was not accomplished until the new governor, Santiago de Vera, seeing the need for more stable protection than a wall of stakes, cleared the ground and laid the first stones of the fort that bears his name. These stones are still in the wall, though difficult to identify at the present time.

When Governor Dasmaringas arrived in 1590 he brought instructions from the king of Spain to fortify the place so as to insure it against all attacks by land or sea and at once set about the work. His first construction was that of the circular wall still standing in front of the parapet of the fort itself. Fort Santiago was originally built by the Spaniards when they settled and built the town of Manila, Manila, as it was first laid out, consisted roughly of a triangular city, composed of the typical churches, homes, shops, etc. The entire city was enclosed by a wall roughly 20 feet in height and approximately 10 to 20 feet in thickness at the base. The walls were surmounted by guard walks to provide easy coverage for sentries. Bastions or gun positions were included in the general plan to provide complete enfilade or covering fire by artillery. The city was settled on the bay, now known as Manila Bay, and ordered by the Pasig River. The apex of the city was Fort Santiago, situated so that it covered both the river mouth and the bay. The geographical conditions of that day were somewhat different from the present time insofar as the boundaries of the bay are concerned. A student of military affairs today would be somewhat puzzled by the position of the Fort because the Bay is now some 1,000 yards distant. However, when the Fort was built the Bay came directly below the walls of the Fort on the South bordering roughly the line of what is now Bonifacio Drive, and the river, as it does now, ran directly below the opposite wall. At one time, a moat completely encircled the landward side of the Fort.

Fort Santiago, being the apex and main line of defense the city was the center of Spanish military activity in the old walled city, and as such was heavily fortified. Even today old solid shot cannon balls may be found in abundance around the Fort. During the times of the Spanish Inquisition, the dungeons of the Fort were used by the church tribunals for their infamous proceedings. As it is typical in all Spanish Forts, dungeons and cells were provided in abundance. The river (Pasig River) side of the Fort has walls that rise sheerly 35 feet above the river. These were the walls that housed the Water Cells, where unfortunate prisoners were

placed in the evening at low tide, and removed again in the morning, dead thru drowning. All of these cells have now been sealed off but evidences of them can still be found despite the blastings of modern warfare.

"La Real Fuerza de Santiago", (the royal stronghold of Santiago), as Governor Dasmariñas left it, consisted of a straight grey front projecting into the river mouth. An open gun platform above was supported by arches and called the "Battery de Santa Barbara", in honor of the patron saint of all good artilleryists. A lower tier of fire was afforded through embrasures in the casements formed by the arches. Simple curtain walls without interior buttresses, extended the flanks to a fourth front facing the city. The casements were afterward filled in and the embrasures closed and the curtain wall facing the city was changed to a bastion.

Many strange stories have been told about the Spanish occupation of the Fort up to the time of the American occupation. Old Spaniards living in Manila shake their heads wisely and intimate that if they were to tell all they know, it would be an astonishing story indeed. How much they really know is a question, but certain it is that the people held a great fear of the old place. As far as the walls are concerned, there is some foundation for the stories. There are storerooms and magazines, and the outer curtains are connected with the main walls in some cases by underground passages, or were, before these tunnels were destroyed. The filling of the old moat closed them probably forever. When the wall at the end of Calle Aduana was removed, the inner chamber was found filled with human skeletons. There were however, underground passages and deep-built cells in the fort itself. When the Americans took charge of the Fort numerous lower passages and cells, some considerably below the level of the water in the river, were discovered. There was also a movable gate by which the water could be admitted from the river, and all the evidence pointed to the use of these cells in the same manner and for similar ends as such devices were used in Europe at the contemporary period; that is, for the harsh handling of enemies of the king. There are many people who affirm that there are underground passages leading "Back as far as the old Army and Navy Club", but not one knows where to find the secret door to the hidden chambers. There are many of the opinion that slave labor, procured from raids on small native villages were used in the building and construction of the Fort and Walled City, and that these laborers were either worked to death or killed upon completion of the work, so that they might not reveal the secret of the underground passages and cells.

Of some of the stories told, is the one of a woman walled up in one of the lower chambers with a baby born the day she entered. When the Americans came sixteen years later they found her with her sixteen-years old child, who had never been outside the midnight cell. Another political prisoner was to have been drowned, but in the excitement of the events preceding the surrender of the place, he was forgotten, and the Americans found him a raving maniac, having had no food for twelve weeks. In other chambers were found skeletons telling their ghastly tales with no need of commentary. Strange noises used to be heard at night, coming from these lower chambers, until the entrance thereto was walled up, and that chapter of shudder forever closed.

Four flags have floated over Fort Santiago. For three hundred and twenty-eight years the Spanish ensign was unfurled to the tropic breeze, except for the brief time when the British flag supplanted that of the lords of the islands named after their discoverers and conquerors.

The unfurling of the third flag begins with the Americans Era of Fort Santiago, on August 13, 1898, shortly after the Spanish-American War. Even in this short and comparatively quiet war, Fort Santiago played a major part that is no always fully appreciated. When Admiral Dewey sailed into Manila Bay the Fort was one of the lone spots of resistance, firing, with out results, upon the American Squadron. It is not surprising that results were poor considering that solid shot was used against "modern" battleships.

If Fort Santiago has no other cause for renown, the event of 1898 would be reason enough to make it famous. In the inn court General Merritt met the Spanish Governor-General on the memorable 13th of August and arranged the preliminary agreement for the surrender of the Spanish citadel of the Orient. The American troops were in the city and the insurgents were outside, disappointed because they were not admitted to equal rights with the Americans. The Spaniards were disarmed, and the people lived in quaking terror of what the morning might bring, for the tales of what occurred when the British sacked the city in 1762 were enough to cause a shudder. For a week no one ventured out of his house; but none of the terrible things came to pass. There was no pillage, no bloodsheds, no rapine nor plundering. The astonishment of the natives knew no bounds. Every American has reason to be proud of this conquest of old Fort Santiago. After the American flag raising ceremony a formal military review and parade was held, and the control of the Islands was turned over to the first American Governor-General of the Philippines, Grover Cleveland-Willian McKinley, later to become President of the United States.

In that period after the War, Manila became one of the most important Foreign Army Posts. The headquarters of the Philippine Section of the US Army was Fort Santiago. One of the first commanders of the Philippine Headquarters was General Arthur McArthur, father of the present Commanding General of the Far Eastern Command. The military features of the old fort were abandoned, office buildings were erected on top of the wall, and it was thought it would never be used as a fortress again.

Then came World War II, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the informal arrival of Japanese troops in Manila to place the Philippines under the rule of a fourth flag, "The Rising Sun". Upon this arrival of the Japanese Army in Manila in January 1942, many officers of the U.S. Army in the Philippines were trapped in Fort Santiago. The Japs were quick to appreciate the possibilities of the Fort, with its old torture chambers and dungeons. Many a high ranking American Officer was imprisoned here, many never came out from its walls again. However, the majority of the prisoners were those to be classified in the category of "political" prisoners. Those who had information useful to the conqueror.

The Headquarters of the Military Police of the Philippines was in Fort Santiago, and its cells were soon packed solid with prisoners. Natives of Manila have called this "The Blood Stain of the Philippines". Here was the center of the highly coordinated and extremely efficient torture groups of the Japanese Army. Cells were crowded and filthy. Drinking water was in abundance, but usually just out of reach of the prisoners. The "water cure" was a speciality here. (The forcing of water into the body thru the mouth or rectum). Beatings too, or suspension by the thumbs or toes. Not just rumored tortures, but facts substantiated by men who suffered here for months. But those who are still alive to tell their stories are a distinct minority. If a POW or Concentration Camp was too good for you, you went to Fort Santiago. The number of men who died here can not be calculated. Hundreds of bodies, decomposed beyond recognition, were burned when the American Forces moved into the Fort. Germany had its incinerators at Belson, and other infamous camps; Santiago too has its burn't offerings. One cell under the main bastion of the Fort was apparently used for this purpose, and even today in July of 1947, it may be seen with charred bones covering its floor to an unknown depth. Human ashes to a depth of many feet. And behind it is another dungeon, reached by an opening only 24 inches in size, and behind this still other cells, all of which still have the stench of death. The once magnificent Old Fort was left a mass of broken wreckage and twisted structures, littered with the bodies of dead Japanese and Filipinos covered over by debris. Even many months after the war with Japan had ceased, dead bodies were being discovered in the rubble and ruins. The walls of the old Fort were pitted and broken, its buildings with very few exceptions are gone and the ones left are no longer recognizable. The famous old Spanish Archway with its ornate carvings still stands but has been demolished almost beyond a point of recognition. The trees, gardens, and all its beautiful landscaping is gone, but the old Fort, the Bloodstain of the Philippines is still here.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority UND 883078

On 30 November 1946, National Heroes Day as dedicated by the Philippine Republic, amidst ceremony and prayer, a National Monument was erected inside Fort Santiago in the Area formerly occupied by the building serving as Quarters and Detention Cells. (See part (2) of Legend). This monument was erected above the burial ground of some 600-700 bodies found throughout the Fort and in the cells and believed to be the bodies of Filipinos who died as a result of Japanese treatment in Fort Santiago.

The Fort was first occupied as a permanent home by the Transportation Corps in May of 1945 and was designated as the TC General Depot. The TC General Depot redesignated as the Transportation Depot PHILRYCOM is still occupying the Fort and performing its mission of supplying all army vessels in this theater with material necessary for operation, under the guidance of its Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel A. Annan Cook.

/mcg

-7-

DECLASSIFIED
Authority IND 883078

LEGEND

- (1) Manila Unit - A. Major Nishimura's Office
B. Stairways
C. Adjutant's Office
D. Underground Cells
- (2) Quarters - Cells - Investigation Room, electric torture room, hanging, water cure (Where General Lim was tortured)
- A. Detention Cell
B. Investigation Room - Water cure - torture
C. Mess Hall (for Japs)
D. Corridor
E. Detention Cells
F. Detention Cells
G. Detention Cells & Torture Room
H. Detention Cells
- (3) Garage
- (4) Quarters and Infirmary and Cells Underground (Where alleged 8 assailants of President Laurel were tortured to death)
- A. Detention Cell
B. Quarters
C. Infirmary
D. Doctor's Quarters
E. Under ground and Second Floor Cells, torture Chamber, Investigation Room.
- (5) Officer's Quarters
- (R) - Rizal's Cell
- (6) Kitchen
- (7) Tagalog Class Room for Japs and Lecture Room
- (8) Arch - Inside are Jap Quarters
- (9) Garage
- (10) Bath House
- (11) Stable
- (12) Detention Cells - 16 in all - where the following were detained:
(different dates - 1943)
General Lim - Cell No. 4
Gen. Grant - Unknown cell at Bldg. (12), Bldg. (15) he occupied cell No. 1 prior to transfer
Col. Alejandro Santos - Cell No. 1 occupied cell No. 1 in Bldg. No. (15)
Col. Thorpe - Cell No. 5 - occupied cell No. 4 in Bldg. No. (15)
Col. H. Straughn - unknown cell - occupied cell No. 1 in bldg. No. (15)
Col. Nekar & 11 Filipinos - Cell No. 13
Col. Arthur King Noble - unknown cell

- (13) Detention Cell, water cure
- (14) Ladies' and Men's bath, serves as torture chamber
- (15) Adm Building - National Division - Office of Col. Nagahama and Filipino informers.

GROUND FLOOR - a, b, c, d, e, cells occupied prior to transfer to Bldg. (12) of Col. Straughn, Col. Santos, Col. Thorpe, Gen. Grant, Col. Nakar, Capt. Barker, Col. Noble, Martin Moses.

- F. Quarters
- G. Office
- H. Toilet
- I. Guard

- (16) Quarters
- (17) Tool Shed
- (18) Repair Shop
- (19) Shed
- (20) Shed
- (21) Faucet (for prisoner)
- (22) Guardhouse
- (23) Barracks
- (24) Main Gate
- (25) Vegetable Gardens grown by prisoners for Japs
- (26) Vegetable Gardens grown by prisoners for Japs
- (27) Vegetable Gardens grown by prisoners for Japs

The following prisoners were brought to old Bilibid, then to Muntinglupa, and back to old Bilibid. Later on they were brought to the North Cemetery, their fate still unknown:

- 1. Gen. Lim - (uncertain)
- 2. Gen. Grant
- 3. Col. Straughn
- 4. Col. Thorpe
- 5. Col. Nakar
- 6. Col. Martin Moses
- 7. Col. Arthur King Noble
- 8. Capt. Barker

The following survived:

- 1. Col. Santos
- 2. Manuel Floriaga
- 3. Antonio Quirino
- 4. Gabriel Mendoza
- 5. Dr. Faustista
- 6. Feliciano Pamintuan
- 7. Congressman Jesus Serrano
- 8. Lorenzo Lorma
- 9. Lucas Villacrucis
- 10. F. Lao

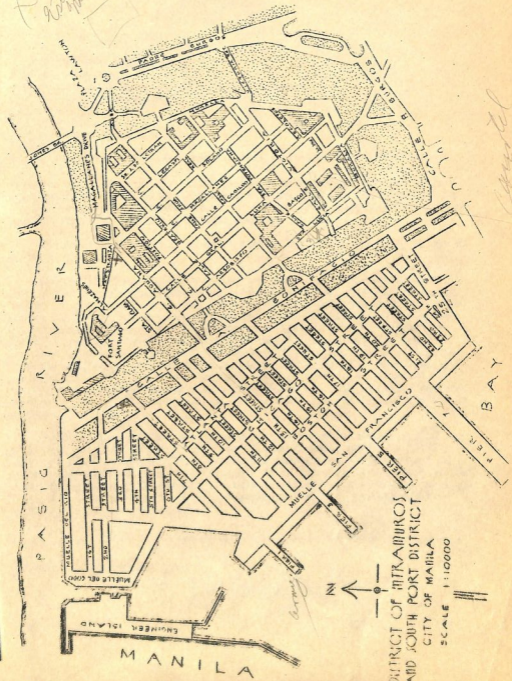
SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Former civilian prisoners, USAFFE officers and enlisted men, and guerrillas.

GATE OF FORT SANTIAGO

Upon entering into the original Fort Santiago, as first completed by the Spaniards, can be viewed the remains of what was once the beautiful archway or Gate, leading into the old fortress. It is truly significant as an Arch de Triumphe as the armies of every conquering nation has passed beneath it's magnificence. The beauty of it's situation, the richness of it's architectural treasure and the enchantment which proceeds from it's past grandeur, can with regret, be viewed in a state of destruction and decay. The attached sketch shows in outline only, the archway as it appeared several years ago, a perfect reminiscence of the grandeur of Spain three centuries ago. In the tower of the arch is engraved the Patron Saint of Spain, "Santiago de Apostol", after whom the Fort was named. The famous Patron can be seen riding on his charger ready to give the final blow to his vanquished foes. In the center of the arch is the Coat-of-Arm of Spain, which is the symbol of colonization and Spanish dominance three centuries ago. On each side of the arch is depicted a Spanish soldier and a lion, a true symbol of the strength and power of Spain during the height of her glory.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority WFO 883078

F. Wood
maps



Manila
Map

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *MD 883078*

DISTRICT OF INTRAMUROS
AND SOUTH PORT DISTRICT
CITY OF MANILA
SCALE 1:10000



HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINES COMMAND

15 Mar 49

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY

FILE No: 999-23-4

TITLE: Reference cases of Fort Santiago Massacre

ORIGIN: Fort Santiago, P.I.

DATE: 1944-45

AUTHENTICITY:

SOURCE: Investigation Section

PAGE: 2

November 1944. During this latter period of time she was tortured by having to sit for 24 hours a day without talking. She was forced to undress in the presence of the Japanese and was slapped. She stated that 21 or more persons died each day in the Bilibid Prison.

The following information, as related by Mrs. Maria Martinez, is based on hearsay:

The Fort Santiago Massacre occurred between Christmas and New Year of 1944. 3000 people were tortured and starved to death. These persons were beaten and bayoneted. None were shot for tortures were the customary practice. The water cure was administered by forcing a tube up the rectum and allowing water to enter until the lungs were filled, thereby causing the death by choking. Burning was also used to kill prisoners. The men in charge of such torture methods were Captain Kabiasi and Magahama Misimura. 3000 men were taken from neighboring prisons and gathered at Fort Santiago and were killed by torture and burning. Most of these were bayoneted to death. No one escaped the massacre. The reason for this brutality was the repeated American attacks by air and the possible landing of American Forces on Luzon.

Submitted herewith and made a part of this report of investigation are affidavits of Jose Topacio Ruano, Hermeneclilde Atienza, Andres D. Sison and Ernest Stanley. There is also attached and made a part of this report an article entitled "Story of Fort Santiago" which appeared in the March 3, 1945 issue of the "Free Philippines", a Manila Newspaper. Also submitted are signed statements of Aurelie L. Lucero, Serafin Aquino, M.F. Tauwauge and an Affidavit of Irineo Buenconcejo.

MEMO

/s/ R.W.B.
/s/ R.W.B.

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY

JOHN DELAGARZA, JR.
2nd Lt AGD

Inclosure: G

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

C O P Y

File: 999-23-4
Title: Reference cases of Fort Santiago Massacre
Origin: Fort Santiago, P. I.
Dates: 1944-45 Classification:
Authenticity:
Source: Investigation Section
Extracted by DFD Date 23 Dec 45 Microfilmed Date _____

EXTRACT, Page 2.

* * * * *
"The Fort Santiago Massacre occurred between Christmas and New Year of 1944. 3000 people were tortured and starved to death. Three persons were beaten and bayoneted. None were shot for tortures were the customary practice. The water cure was administered by forcing a tube up the rectum and allowing water to enter until the lungs were filled, thereby causing the death by choking. Burning was also used to kill prisoners. The man in charge of such torture methods were Captain Kabiase and Nagahama Hisimura. 3000 men were taken from neighboring prisons and gathered at Fort Santiago and were killed by torture and burning. Most of these were bayoneted to death. No one escaped the massacre. The reason for this brutality was the repeated American attacks by air and the possible landing of American Forces on Luzon."
* * * * *
40 November 1947

/s/ R.W.B.
/c/ R.W.B.

Extracted by:
2 Mar '49, AGRD

/s/ John H. Barr
/c/ JOHN H. BARR
Investigator

Inclosure 2

C O P Y

Known copy of talk given by Capt. J. Hugh Cook, Dept. of Transportation, at the monthly meeting of the Manila Chapter, Army Transportation Association.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority WNO 883078

Philrycom Transportation Depot
APO 900
FORT SANTIAGO
Manila

HISTORY OF FORT SANTIAGO
26 November 1947

Souvenir copy of talk given by Lt Col A. Annan Cook Depot Com-
mander of the Philrycom Transportation Depot, at the monthly
meeting of the Manila Chapter, Army Transportation Association.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

C O N T E N T S

This pamphlet has been assembled at the direction of the Commanding Officer Philrycom Transportation Service (Lt Col. Joshua R. Messersmith) by the Commanding Officer of the Philrycom Transportation Depot (Lt. Col. A. Annan Cook), outlining the historical events in which Fort Santiago played such an important role in the development of the new Republic of the Philippines.

Fort Santiago

History of Fort Santiago

Map and Legend During Japanese Occupation

Sketch and Description of Fort Santiago
Gate or Archway

History of Santo Domingo Church

Pre-War Map of Intramuros (Walled City)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 440 883078

F O R T S A N T I A G O

The historical old fortress of Manila, overlooking the mouth of the Pasig River, was more than three hundred and fifty years, the stronghold of the Spanish military forces in Manila. It has been under the flags of four different nations and possibly fifth, if the new Republic of the Philippines eventually takes control of the Fort and makes of it, a monument to a spectacular and bloodstained historical background. The Fort stands on near the site of the original fort of Rajah Soliman, whom the Spaniards dislodged when they captured the city in 1570. The building of the present Fort was begun in 1582 and had undergone very little change, since its completion, prior to the destruction caused by the reoccupation of American Forces in World War II.

Fort Santiago derives its name from the patron saint of Spain, Santiago de Apostol and it is well to note too, that the second Spanish Governor of the Philippines, and under whose direction the first stones of the fort were laid, was named Santiago de Vera. The Fort is rich in traditions and many stories or accounts are related of the use to which its rusty cells, chambers, and under-ground dungeon were put. It is well known too, that Dr. Jose Rizal, the Filipino martyr, was imprisoned there on his last day before being led to his execution on the Old Luneta on December 30, 1896.

The first American flag was raised officially in Fort Santiago on August 13, 1898, and a plaque to commemorate this eventful day rests atop the ramp leading up to what is now Fort Santiago Theater, located at the Southwest corner of the Fort.

Since the reoccupation by American Forces the Fort has served as a Transportation Corps Depot, servicing all army vessels in this theater.

HISTORY OF FORT SANTIAGO

In relating an account or brief history of Fort Santiago, we must go back to the twelfth century when the first fearless mariner discovered a chain of islands across the China sea inhabited by "Saracens". He reported these as peaceful people, but the next account of them tells of Sulu pirates and "savages" who lived by fighting and plunder.

Then Magallanes (Magellan) again discovered the Islands in 1521, he found a people who know how to fight, and lost his life at their hands on Mactan Island near the Island of Cebu. On a second expedition headed by Legaspi, a Spanish settlement was established on the Island of Cebu. Great difficulty was had in maintaining peace with the inhabitants, so when report was received of a large island called Luzon with a great bay and a sturdy people, Legaspi dispatched an expeditionary force under command of Captain Martin de Goiti and Juan de Salcedo to investigate. When this expedition arrived in the year 1570 opposite the town of Manila, a rude but strong wooden palisade was already erected by the natives at the south side of the mouth of the Pasig River, and there were twelve bronze cannon of native manufacture, mounted for the defense of the place. All of this furnishes good ground for belief that Fort Santiago has a history that may be traced back to the dawn of Modern Philippine history to the time when the first group of Malaysians were gathered by the Pasig under the leadership of Mohammedan Rajah, and built a log enclosure for defense against other peoples about them. The mouth of the river was always the strategic position of the whole country, and on that same spot Fort Santiago stands today as a monument to the Philippine Islands.

Accounts differ a little as to just what happened when Salcedo's expedition sailed into the bay of Manila. Fr Juan de la Concepcion says that Rajah Soliman rallied his forces and manned his twelve bronze guns in the palisade and made a goodly defense of the place, but the besiegers were victorious and set fire to the city and afterward captured Cavite. Another account states that surrender was made without opposition; the cannon were captured and taken to Panay, a treaty was made and signed in blood by Salcedo and Rajah Soliman, and the expedition returned to Cebu.

When Legaspi, adelantado or knight-proprietor of the Philippines, heard of the fine location and great bay of Manila he at once made preparations to shift his headquarters, and in April 1571, he took the city, and found it empty, as the inhabitants had fled after setting fire to their houses.

Legaspi soon placated the Rajah, and on May 19, 1571 founded the city of Manila, and the written history of Fort Santiago began. The old palisade was at once strengthened, and the natives were commanded to build a wall about the place, and to erect quarters for the governor and the soldiers, but the work was not accomplished until the new governor, Santiago de Vera, seeing the need for more stable protection than a wall of stakes, cleared the ground and laid the first stones of the fort that bears his name. These stones are still in the wall, though difficult to identify at the present time.

When Governor Dasmarinas arrived in 1590 he brought instructions from the king of Spain to fortify the place so as to insure it against all attacks by land or sea and at once set about the work. His first construction was that of the circular wall still standing in front of the parapet of the fort itself. Fort Santiago was originally built by the Spaniards when they settled and built the town of Manila. Manila, as it was first laid out, consisted roughly of a triangular city, composed of the typical churches, homes, shops, etc. The entire city was enclosed by a wall roughly 20 feet in height and approximately 10 to 20 feet in thickness at the base. The walls were surmounted by guard walks to provide easy coverage for sentries. Bastions or gun positions were included in the general plan to provide complete enfilade or covering fire by artillery. The city was settled on the bay, now known as Manila Bay, and ordered by the Pasig River. The apex of the city was Fort Santiago, situated so that it covered both the river mouth and the bay. The geographical conditions of that day were somewhat different from the present time insofar as the boundaries of the bay are concerned. A student of military affairs today would be somewhat puzzled by the position of the Fort because the Bay is now some 1,000 yards distant. However when the Fort was built the Bay came directly below the walls of the Fort on the South bordering roughly the line of what is now Bonifacio Drive, and the river, as it does now, ran directly below the opposite wall. At one time, a moat completely encircled the landward side of the Fort.

Fort Santiago, being the apex and main line of defense of the city was the center of Spanish military activity in the old walled city, and as such was heavily fortified. Even today old solid shot cannon balls may be found in abundance around the Fort. During the times of the Spanish Inquisition, the dungeons of the Fort were used by the church tribunals for their infamous proceedings. As it is typical in all Spanish Forts, dungeons and cells were provided in abundance. The river (Pasig River) side of the Fort has walls that rise sheerly 35 feet above the river. These were the walls that housed the "Water Cells", where unfortunate prisoners were

placed in the evening at low tide, and removed again in the morning, dead thru drowning. All of these cells have now been sealed off but evidences of them can still be found despite the blastings of modern warfare.

"La Real Fuerza de Santiago", (the royal stronghold of Santiago), as Governor Dasmariñas left it, consisted of a straight grey front projecting into the river mouth. An open gun platform above was supported by arches and called the "Battery de Santa Barbara", in honor of the patron saint of all good artillerists. A lower tier of fire was afforded through embrasures in the casements formed by the arches. Simple curtain walls without interior buttresses, extended the flanks to a fourth front facing the city. The casements were afterward filled in and the embrasures closed and the curtain wall facing the city was changed to a bastion.

Many strange stories have been told about the Spanish occupation of the Fort up to the time of the American occupation. Old Spaniards living in Manila shake their heads wisely and intimate that if they were to tell all they know, it would be an astonishing story indeed. How much they really know is a question, but certain it is that the people held a great fear of the old place. As far as the walls are concerned, there is some foundation for the stories. There are storerooms and magazines, and the outer curtains are connected with the main walls in some cases by underground passages, or were, before these tunnels were destroyed. The filling of the old moat closed them, probably forever. When the wall at the end of Calle Aduana was removed, the inner chamber was found filled with human skeletons. There were however, underground passages and deep-built cells in the fort itself. When the Americans took charge of the Fort numerous lower passages and cells, some considerably below the level of the water in the river, were discovered. There was also a movable gate by which the water could be admitted from the river, and all the evidence pointed to the use of these cells in the same manner and for similar ends as such devices were used in Europe at the contemporary period; that is, for the harsh handling of enemies of the King. There are many people who affirm that there are underground passages leading "Back as far as the old Army and Navy Club", but not one knows where to find the secret door to the hidden chambers. There are many of the opinion that slave labor, procured from raids on small native villages were used in the building and construction of the Fort and Walled City, and that these laborers were either worked to death or killed upon completion of the work, so that they might not reveal the secret of the underground passages and cells.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority WFO 883078

Of some of the stories told, is the one of a woman walled up in one of the lower chambers with a baby born the day she entered. When the Americans came sixteen years later, they found her with her sixteen-year old child, who had never been outside the midnight cell. Another political prisoner was to have been drowned, but in the excitement of the events preceding the surrender of the place, he was forgotten, and the Americans found him a raving maniac, having had no food for two weeks. In other chambers were found skeletons telling their ghastly tales with no need of commentary. Strange noises used to be heard at night, coming from these lower chambers, until the entrance thereto was walled up, and that chapter of shudders forever closed.

Four flags have floated over Fort Santiago. For three hundred and twenty-eight years the Spanish ensign was unfurled to the tropic breeze, except for the brief time when the British flag supplanted that of the lords of the islands named after their discoverers and conquerors.

The unfurling of the third flag begins with the American Era of Fort Santiago, on August 13, 1898, shortly after the Spanish-American War. Even in this short and comparatively quiet war, Fort Santiago played a major part that is no always fully appreciated. When Admiral Dewey sailed into Manila Bay, the Fort was one of the lone spots of resistance, firing, with out results, upon the American Squadron. It is not surprising that results were poor considering that solid shot was used against "modern" battleships.

If Fort Santiago has no other cause for renown, the event of 1898 would be reason enough to make it famous. In the inner court General Merritt met the Spanish Governor-General on the memorable 13th of August and arranged the preliminary agreement for the surrender of the Spanish citadel of the Orient. The American troops were in the city and the insurgents were outside, disappointed because they were not admitted to equal rights with the Americans. The Spaniards were disarmed, and the people lived in quaking terror of what the morning might bring, for the tales of what occurred when the British sacked the city in 1762 were enough to cause a shudder. For a week no one ventured out of his house; but none of the terrible things came to pass. There was no pillage, no bloodsheds, no rapine nor plundering. The astonishment of the natives knew no bounds. Every American has reason to be proud of this conquest of old Fort Santiago. After the American flag raising ceremony a formal military review and parade was held, and the control of the Islands was turned over to the first American Governor-General of the Philippines, Grover Cleveland-William McKinley, later to become President of the United States.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 883078

In that period after the War, Manila became one of the most important Foreign Army Posts. The headquarters of the Philippine Section of the US Army was Fort Santiago. One of the first commanders of the Philippine Headquarters was General Arthur MacArthur, father of the present Commanding General of the Far Eastern Command. The military features of the old fort were abandoned, office buildings were erected on top of the wall, and it was thought it would never be used as a fortress again.

Then came World War II, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the informal arrival of Japanese troops in Manila to place the Philippines under the rule of a fourth flag, "The Rising Sun". Upon this arrival of the Japanese Army in Manila in January 1942, many officers of the U.S. Army in the Philippines were trapped in Fort Santiago. The Japs were quick to appreciate the possibilities of the Fort, with its old torture chambers and dungeons. Many a high ranking American Officer was imprisoned here, many never came out from its walls again. However, the majority of the prisoners were those to be classified in the category of "political" prisoners. Those who had information useful to the conqueror.

The Headquarters of the Military Police of the Philippines was in Fort Santiago, and its cells were soon packed solid with prisoners. Natives of Manila have called this "The Blood Stain of the Philippines". Here was the center of the highly coordinated and extremely efficient torture groups of the Japanese Army. Cells were crowded and filthy. Drinking water was in abundance, but usually just out of reach of the prisoners. The "water cure" was a speciality here. (The forcing of water into the body thru the mouth or rectum). Beatings too, or suspension by the thumbs or toes. Not just rumored tortures, but facts substantiated by men who suffered here for months. But those who are still alive to tell their stories are a distinct minority. If a POW or Concentration Camp was too good for you, you went to Fort Santiago. The number of men who died here cannot be calculated. Hundreds of bodies, decomposed beyond recognition, were burned when the American Forces moved into the Fort. Germany had its incinerators at Belsen, and other infamous camps; Santiago too has its burn't offerings. One cell under the main bastion of the Fort was apparently used for this purpose, and even today in July of 1947, it may be seen with charred bones covering its floor to an unknown depth. Human ashes to a depth of many feet. And behind it is another dungeon, reached by an opening only 24 inches in size, and behind this still other cells, all of which still have the stench of death. The once magnificent Old Fort was left a mass of broken wreckage and twisted structures, littered with the bodies of dead Japanese and Filipinos covered over by debris. Even many months after the war with Japan had ceased, dead bodies

were being discovered in the rubble and ruins. The walls of the old Fort were pitted and broken, its buildings with very few exceptions are gone, and the ones left are no longer recognizable. The famous old Spanish Archway with its ornate carvings still stands but has been demolished almost beyond a point of recognition. The trees, gardens, and all its beautiful landscaping is gone, but the old Fort, the Blood-stain of the Philippines is still here.

On 30 November 1946, National Heroes Day as dedicated by the Philippine Republic, amidst ceremony and prayer, a National Monument was erected inside Fort Santiago in the Area formerly occupied by the building serving as Quarters and Detention Cells. (See part (2) of Legend). This monument was erected above the burial ground of some 600-700 bodies found throughout the Fort and in the cells and believed to be the bodies of Filipinos who died as a result of Japanese treatment in Fort Santiago.

The Fort was first occupied as a permanent home by the Transportation Corps in May of 1945 and was designated as the TC General Depot. The TC General Depot re-designated as the Transportation Depot, PHILRYCOM is still occupying the Fort and performing its mission of supplying all army vessels in this theater with material necessary for operation, under the guidance of its Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel A. Annan Cook

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 883078

LEGEND

- (1) Manila Unit - A. Major Nishimura's Office
B. Stairways
C. Adjutant's Office
D. Underground Cells
- (2) Quarters - Cells - Investigation Room, electric torture room, hanging, water cure (where General Lim was tortured)
- A. Detention Cell
B. Investigation Room - water cure - torture
C. Mess Hall (for Japs)
D. Corridor
E. Detention Cells
F. Detention Cells
G. Detention Cells & Torture Room
H. Detention Cells
- (3) Garage
- (4) Quarters and Infirmary and Cells Underground (where alleged 8 assailants of President Laurel were tortured to death)
- A. Detention Cell
B. Quarters
C. Infirmary
D. Doctor's Quarters
E. Under ground and Second Floor Cells, torture Chamber, Investigation Room
- (5) Officers' Quarters
- (P) - Medical's Cell
- (6) Kitchen
(7) Tagalog Class Room for Japs and Lecture Room
(8) Arch - Inside are Jap Quarters
(9) Garage
(10) Bath House
(11) Stable
(12) Detention Cells - 16 in all - where the following were detained:
(different dates - 1943)
General Lim - Cell No. 4
Gen. Grant - Unknown cell at Bldg. (12), Bldg. (15)
he occupied cell No. 1 prior to transfer
Col. Alejandro Santos - Cell No. 1 occupied cell
No. 1 in Bldg. No. (15)
Col. Thorpe - Cell No. 5 - occupied cell No. 4 in Bldg.
No. (15)
Col. H. Straughn - unknown cell - occupied cell No. 1 in
bldg. No. (15)
Col. Nakar & 11 Filipinos - Cell No. 13
Col. Arthur King Noble - unknown cell

- (13) Detention Cell, water cure
- (14) Ladies' and Men's bath, serves as torture chamber
- (15) Adm Building - National Division - Office of Col. Nagahama and Filipino informers.
GROUND FLOOR - a,b,c,d,e, cells occupied prior to transfer to Bldg. (12) of Col. Straughn, Col. Santos, Col. Thorpe, Gen. Grant, Col. Nakar, Capt. Barker, Col. Noble, Martin Moses.
 - F. Quarters
 - G. Office
 - H. Toilet
 - I. Guard

- (16) Quarters
- (17) Food Shed
- (18) Repair Shop
- (19) Shed
- (20) Shed
- (21) Pallets (for prisoner)
- (22) Guardhouse
- (23) Barracks
- (24) Main Gate
- (25) Vegetable Gardens grown by prisoners for Japs
- (26) Vegetable Gardens grown by prisoners for Japs
- (27) Vegetable Gardens grown by prisoners for Japs

The following prisoners were brought to old Bilibid, then to Munting Lupa, and back to old Bilibid. Later on they were brought to the North Gate camp, their fate still unknown:

1. Gen. Lim - (uncertain)
2. Gen. Grant
3. Col. Straughn
4. Col. Thorpe
5. Col. Nakar
6. Col. Martin Moses
7. Col. Arthur King Noble
8. Capt. Barker

The following survived:

1. Col. Santos
2. Manuel Eloriza
3. Antonio Quirino
4. Gabriel Mendoza
5. Dr. Bautista
6. Feliciano Pamintuan
7. Congressman Jesus Serrano
8. Lorenzo Lorma
9. Lucas Villacruz
10. F. Lao

DECLASSIFIED
Authority WFO 883078

GATE OF FORT SANTIAGO

Upon entering into the original Fort Santiago, as first completed by the Spaniards, can be viewed the remains of what was once the beautiful archway or Gate, leading into the old fortress. It is truly significant as an Arch de Triumphe as the armies of every conquering nation has passed beneath it's magnificence. The beauty of it's situation, the richness of it's architectural treasure and the enchantment which proceeds from it's past grandeur, can with regret, be viewed in a state of destruction and decay. The attached sketch shows in outline only, the archway as it appeared several years ago, a perfect reminiscence of the grandeur of Spain three centuries ago. In the tower of the arch is engraved the Patron Saint of Spain, "Santiago de Apotol", after whom the Fort was named. The famous Patron can be seen riding on his charger ready to give the final blow to his vanquished foes. In the center of the arch is the Coat-of-Arm of Spain, which is the symbol of colonization and Spanish dominance three centuries ago. On each side of the arch is depicted a Spanish soldier and a lion, a true symbol of the strength and power of Spain during the height of her glory.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 11/10 883078

~~ACRD~~

~~RPT OF PAID CIV GRLA & USAFFE CLAIMS~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority WFO 883078

DECLASSIFIED

Authority gpo 883078