



Crossed Sabers

A Newsletter of the U.S. Cavalry Association
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New "U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge" Painting

Reader's of *Lieutenant Ramsey's War* or visitors to his web site are familiar with Edwin Price Ramsey. Many, though, might not have heard of the cavalry charge he led in the Philippines in 1942, the last charge of the United States horse cavalry.

The story of his Cavalry Japanese patrol was "The Reader's Digest" in 1992. The article known artist John Solie, the Reader's Digest, Inc., to Unfortunately, though, advantage of discussing the Trooper Ramsey. Thus, painting of the action, there it. In a project to correct the provide a new and accurate illustration, the U.S. Cavalry Association asked the same artist, John Solie, to paint an accurate illustration of the action, with input from Trooper Ramsey, experts on U.S. Cavalry uniforms, equipment, and horse tack, as well on Japanese uniforms and equipment of the time.



charge on Bataan against a published in "The Reader's was illustrated by well-who was commissioned by illustrate the action. Solie did not have the painting he would do with while it was a conceptual were many inaccuracies in historical record and

The Association's plan was to find a market for the painting itself and make available through the U.S. Cavalry Association a limited number of prints, which retired Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey agreed to autograph. The Association has also sought a purchaser for the painting itself, and negotiations between the buyer identified by the Association and the artist are underway.



U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge
26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts)
Bataan, January 1942



For the information of those who may not be familiar with the exploits of then Lieutenant Ramsey, he was born in Illinois, raised in Kansas, and graduated from the Oklahoma Military Academy. Commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Cavalry Reserve in May of 1938, he entered active service in February of 1941 with the famous 11th Cavalry Regiment, at Campo, California. In June of 1941 he volunteered for service in the Philippines with the elite 26th Cavalry Regiment, Philippine Scouts. Then came that fateful day in December when Japan

attacked Pearl Harbor and the following invasion of the Philippines.

Fighting desperate rear guard action, he was personally awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action by General Jonathan Wainwright for leading the last horse cavalry charge in U.S. history at the village of Morong, Bataan, on January 16, 1942. Escaping after the surrender of Bataan, he formed the guerilla forces in Central Luzon. Then came three years of agonizing guerilla warfare, waged by courageous Americans

and Filipinos on Luzon Island, to prepare the way for the return of General Douglas MacArthur. Three years of death and disease were his constant companions at every bend of the jungle trail.

Fighting both the Imperial Japanese Army and the Communist Huk guerillas, he sent critical intelligence information to General Douglas MacArthur in preparation for the liberation of the Philippines. After his return, General MacArthur personally awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross for his guerilla activities per General



Orders No 9, of 13 June 1945, "For extraordinary heroism in the Philippine Islands from 21 April 1942 to 30 April 1945."

Artist Solie completed a first version of the new painting. Photos of it were provided for comment to Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey and other experts to ensure accuracy. A number of corrections and modifications were provided by Ramsey himself and various experts, knowledgeable of U.S. Cavalry uniforms, equipment, and horse tack of the era, as well as experts familiar with the Japanese army of World War II. The artist incorporated the changes into the final painting.

The U.S. Cavalry Association has contracted the print of ten copies on canvas, the same size as the original painting, 30" x 40", and 100 copies on high quality 16" x 20" paper. The paper prints have a bottom border in which will be a USCA logo below the left corner, then Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey's signature, the title in the center, then the Philippine Department shoulder patch and the 26th Cavalry regimental crest, and finally the serial number of the print (such as 5/100) below the right corner. The title is: "U.S. Cavalry's Last Charge" in large letters and below it "26th Cavalry Regiment (Philippine Scouts)" and below it "Bataan, January 1942."

Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey will sign each print individually, the canvas ones on the back and the paper ones as indicated above. There will be a signing ceremony at Fort Riley, Kansas, in conjunction with the September 20-23 U.S. Cavalry Association's Annual "Bivouac" (meeting) and National Cavalry Competition, as well as Fort Riley's Apple Days festival.

Each print will be accompanied by a narrative of the charge, signed by the president of the U.S. Cavalry Association.

Prints will be available to the public on September 22 at Fort Riley. The cost is \$425 for canvas prints and \$195 for paper prints. Both prices include tax, shipping and handling. The canvas prints will be mailed in cardboard mailing tubes and the paper prints in reinforced mailers. For those members of the U.S. Cavalry Association and the Philippine Scout Heritage Society who wish to be sure to get a print before sale to the general public, a check in the appropriate amount should be mailed by the first week in September to: U.S. Cavalry Association, c/o Philip L. Bolté, 175 Warrior Creek Drive, West Union, SC