

Defenders of the Rock

FOREWORD

By Raquel Ramsey

A year ago, Tim and Vicki Deal connected with me through my late husband Ed's website (<http://edwinpriceramsey.com>). They were writing a book titled "Defenders of the Rock" and wanted to include my husband's story as one of the 24 heroes of WWII in the Philippines. I was delighted and honored to have them tell Ed's story of the last cavalry charge in U.S. Army history, which Ed led in Morong, Bataan on January 16, 1942. Later he formed and commanded the American and Filipino guerrilla forces of the East Central Luzon Guerrilla Area (ECLGA) for three years behind enemy lines.

The book highlights 24 individual stories at the start of WWII in the Philippines. They are being told from the perspective of those who were actually there, which brings truth and credibility to the narratives highlighted by maps, historical elements and pictures. Ed personally knew many of the heroes in the book, including Trooper Felipe Fernandez, who was with him during the cavalry charge in Morong. He also knew Martin Moses, Commanding Officer of the 12th Infantry Regiment of the Resistance Movement. In Ed's own book published in 1990, "Lieutenant Ramsey's War", Ed recounted what happened to Moses who was made to dig his own grave and beheaded. Another hero profiled in "Defenders of the Rock" is Margaret Utensky, who joined the guerrillas with Col. John Boone. Ed also knew Chick Parsons, America's master spy in the Philippines.

This book will have a lasting impact on younger generations as it tells the stories of these brave heroes and of their families who sacrificed for the cause of freedom in the Philippines. One of those younger generations can be seen in Alice Benitez, whose father, a judge, recruited members of Ed's guerrilla force in Pangasinan. Alice recalls the nipa hut where her dad and Ed would meet and organize the guerilla troop movements. She has become a part of our family since they protected Ed from detection by Japanese soldiers – a loyalty that could have cost them their lives. Ed would frequently remember that no Filipinos ever betrayed him to the enemy during the war, despite the bounty on his head offered by the Japanese. They remained loyal and trusted his promise of continuing to fight for the sake of their nation.

There are many books that have been written about renowned heroes; but this book focuses on heroes at the start of the war in the Philippines. Some names may be familiar to readers, but others are not. This gives the "Defenders of the Rock" extra weight, because readers will learn much about lesser known but no less courageous unsung heroes, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice. I am proud to endorse this book as it sheds light on these men and women who make us realize that freedom is not free!