

**Continuities of Pre-War Japanese Communities in the Philippines: An Archival and Oral History Project on the End of World War II and its Aftermath (Patricia O. Afable)**

This research is part of a larger study of the social and historical foundations of an early 20th century Japanese community in the northern Philippines. This section, which was supported by a Sumitomo Foundation grant in 2007 and 2008, consists of a survey of U.S. military records on the internment of Japanese civilians in the Philippines at the end of World War II. The internment records covered about 17,700 civilians including Japanese, Japanese-Filipinos, and some Filipino spouses. This survey focused on the Luzon Prisoner-of-War camps and the Leyte Detention Camp, which accounted for 19 percent of the total internees in the Philippines. The rest of the prisoners-of-war, which must come under another study, were detained in the Davao internment camp in Mindanao.

Located in the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (College Park, Maryland), these records contain a wide variety of personal information furnished to U.S. military officials by prisoners-of-war as they began internment. The records show that the prefectures of Fukuoka, Fukushima, Hiroshima, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Yamaguchi, and Yamanashi were the best represented in the northern internment camps. On the other hand, Okinawans were the majority of internees in the Davao camp. While most young internees were students or unemployed, a large proportion of adult Japanese survivors on Luzon were engaged in various business and professional activities or had been working in factories, industrial sites, or in offices. Few were farmers. Most of the survivors were between the ages of 20 and 40 years. English and Philippine language proficiency was notably high; and most Japanese with Filipino spouses, along with their children, listed themselves as Catholics.

Recorded dates and place of arrest allow for a reconstruction of the last year of the war for each internee, including the process of arrest, internment, and repatriation. The vast majority of prisoners-of-war on Luzon were apprehended in the Cagayan River valley after August 1945 and were processed for repatriation at the Luzon POW Camp 1 at Canlubang, Laguna. By their indirect reference to family composition, the records display the high rate of mortality among Luzon's pre-war Japanese residents. They confirm that most survivors were young people who had the stamina and resources to survive a long retreat. There were substantial differences in the information from internees in early 1945 from those taken into custody in the more chaotic last stages of the war.

The utility of these 60+-year old documents for Japanese-Filipino families and their organizations for establishing the identity of first generation Japanese migrants needs to be assessed further, even though the mortality of Japanese civilians was extremely high. However, in combination with oral histories, the personal information recorded is valuable for exploring many aspects of the social life of these settler communities, including education, language learning, and occupational and migration patterns.

**Publication of the Results of Research Project:**

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

- (1). To the Asian Cultural History Program meeting, Department of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, Date to be announced, Summer, 2009;
- (2) To the Philippine Arts, Letters, and Media Council, Metro-Washington DC membership: September 2009.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)