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Holocaust Remembrance Month
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RESCUE IN THE PHILIPPINES

REFUGE FROM THE HOLOCAUST

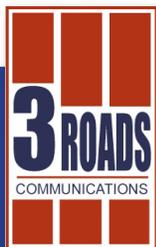
“Rescue in The Philippines” is a one-hour documentary of the untold story of how the five Frieder brothers, Cincinnati businessmen making two-for-a-nickel cigars in World War II Manila, together with Manuel Quezon, the charismatic first president of the Philippines, Paul McNutt, U.S. High Commissioner and former governor of Indiana (preparing for his own presidential campaign), and an ambitious U.S. Army Colonel named Dwight Eisenhower, helped 1,300 Jews escape the Nazis and immigrate to the Philippines.

It all began with playing cards and smoking cigars.

No one could have predicted that tropical evening card games would lead to an intricate international plan of rescue and settlement. When other countries closed their doors, they persevered simply because “it was the right thing to do.” A real life Casablanca, the story of the rescue is dramatic, elevating and inventive. At its core lies the integrity and compassion of men from completely different backgrounds – Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic - with vastly different personal agendas and reasons - military, political, and business - for being in the Philippines. The poker players created new lives for a steady stream of refugees coming to a strange land. For the refugees, it is a story of daring escapes, hardships creating a community of faith and, finally, a desperate battle for survival in Manila, one of the most ferocious battles of World War II.

Most of all, this is a story of how good can come out of evil.

It's a story of how unspeakable evil dares good men to defeat it. It's a story of how American values of freedom and liberty for all and protecting the weak and rescuing the persecuted found a perfect complement in a young president fighting for his country's freedom and independence.



Cynthia Scott-Johnson
3 Roads Communications
301.662.4121
www.rescueinthephilippines.com

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Manuel Quezon III
Grandson of President Manuel Quezon

I think for my grandfather, it was perhaps that simple. You have a country. You have a little authority. You have an opportunity. Someone has asked for refuge. Which is the most basic humanitarian appeal anyone can make. You answer it."



Susan Eisenhower
Granddaughter of Col. Dwight Eisenhower

"It's one thing to sit around a card table and talk about a worrisome situation—even a dire situation. It's quite another to actually take some action, and I think that's why this is a story for all time."



Ricardo Trota Jose, Ph.D.
History Professor, University of the Philippines

"Very few Filipinos know that (President) Quezon was in his own way kind of Schindler. And it has come out and I think people have been proud of that."



Olga Zervoulakos Owens
Survivor of the Japanese Occupation

"Nothing's gonna happen to the Philippines. We've got the USA. We've got the American Army...And then they bombed Pearl Harbor, that very same day, they bombed Manila."



Marsha Miodowski
German Refugee

"The concentration camp my husband was in...I went there and I simply had a lot of nerve. I said I was coming to pick up my husband. Nobody questioned me. You know, that he was Jewish."



Ursula Progl
German Refugee

"How could anybody have imagined that a whole nation would close it's eyes and ears. And yet you know what? I think it could happen anywhere again, and here."