

L-4 Alumni Association, Inc

May 22, 2020

Subject: Monthly Activity Update

Dear Valued Member,

This Monday is Memorial Day. It marks the unofficial start of summer for many Americans. In remembering the fallen, we also honor their loved ones: spouses, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, friends. We live each day in gratitude for the precious gift that they, the fallen, have given to us.

Roy Congleton is the only known L-4 alumnus to be killed in the line of duty. Our records indicate that he was initiated in 1953. He died in 1964. If you would like to recognize Roy's service and sacrifice, your donation of any amount should be sent to Darlene Williams, Director of Finance. Darlene's address is 1807 Felts Parkway, Fort Mill, SC 29715. Your memorial check is payable to the L4AA Scholarship Fund.

We, members of the association are mostly in the most vulnerable group of the current pandemic. Many of us are in contact with our old classmates ... buddies made many years ago. Some may need assistance but may never ask for help. I encourage you to consider reaching out to your buddies. The use of social media is a perfect vehicle for doing just that. A telephone call to your buddies is even better. Let the widows of your buddies know that you are thinking about them too.

In closing, I invite your attention to a short story. It'll come to you in a separate email. Share it with your buddies and friends if you like, and if I can be of service to you, please reach out to me. My contact information is at the bottom of the letter.

Fraternally,

Joe Harris

Director of Administration

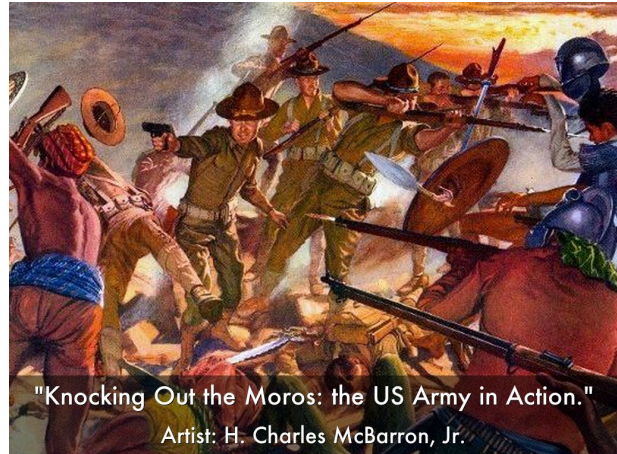
M1911 and the Battle of Bud Bagsak

by
Joe Harris

The four-day battle of Bagsak Mountain (June 11-15, 1913) took place on Jolo Island in the Philippines. Soldiers of the 8th Infantry, troopers of the 8th Cavalry, a battery of the 40th Mountain Artillery and two companies of Philippine Scouts, commanded by none other than 52-year old Brigadier General John J. Pershing, brought an end to the Moros. These Bolo men, outlaws of great physical endurance and savage fighting ability, were well organized under their chiefs. They had never been conquered during several centuries of Spanish rule in the Philippines. The US Army's .45-caliber pistol was developed by Samuel Colt to meet the need for a weapon with enough stopping power to thwart fanatical charges of lawless Moro tribesmen. (1)

The Army's M1911 pistol was designed to give infantrymen a weapon with striking power to stop the charging tribesmen. That they did. The Moros were entirely annihilated by Pershing's task organized force of 1,200.

Unfortunately the use of the M1911 handgun in the battle is still a subject of debate since the first shipment of the sidearms bound for the Philippines were still in crates in New York's harbor in the early months of 1913. Their actual date of arrival in the Philippine Islands has never been verified. Since no photographic evidence exists of an American soldier carrying this new weapon into battle at Bud Bagsak, the use of the M1911 pistol in the battle remains an unsolved mystery. The real man-stopper used against the Moros may very well have been the Winchester Model 1897 shotgun. (2)



Seeing is believing, or so they say. H. Charles McBarron's depiction of the US Army in action against the Moros has the likeness of this pistol clearly painted into the center of his canvas. Is seeing believing?

Eventually this sidearm designed by John Browning was used by all the US military services. The venerable M1911 was manufactured by numerous arms makers, the first being Colt Arms. It remained in the Defense Department's system for a hundred years.

References

1. McBarron, H. Charles, Jr., Knocking Out the Moros: The US Army In Action Series
2. Arnold, J. R., 2011, The Moro War, New York: Bloomsbury Press, ISBN 9781608190249