

# Duty to Country

*Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project*

## Interview Transcript: Lydia De Lara

*Please Note: Due to a machine-automated transcription process, there are significant errors. The times noted are taken from the unedited audio files and do not match the edited videos.*

**Sonny Izon** [00:01:04] So let's do that in English so that your grandfather told you.

**Lydia De Lara** [00:01:09] Yeah, my grandfather told us that my father worked in a cigaret factory before he he joined to the war.

**Lydia De Lara** [00:01:30] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:01:53] [in TAGALOG] My father for the first time, he don't want to join the military, but his step brother told him he needs to join. If not, he's going to be in jail. So my father's gay. So he joined the military.

**Sonny Izon** [00:02:10] So. So until that I was on a training and

**Lydia De Lara** [00:02:19] [in TAGALOG] the one who shall not train.

**Sonny Izon** [00:02:24] All right. Six months ago

**Lydia De Lara** [00:02:27] oh, yeah, six months ago, my father do the training in Laguna for a six month

**Sonny Izon** [00:02:41] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:02:48] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:02:54] so but that was all nevertheless. Oh, I don't want to level my story.

**Lydia De Lara** [00:03:01] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:03:28] I, my father said is hard to in the war but for the first time he kept joking as that away from the ah from the gun. Away from the bullet. That's why he survived [in TAGALOG] of my father. I keep joking about the war that he invade the bullet.

**Sonny Izon** [00:03:54] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:04:04] [in TAGALOG] 1941 to 1946.

**Sonny Izon** [00:04:09] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:04:22] [in TAGALOG] Nineteen forty one, Hong Kong, nineteen forty six

**Sonny Izon** [00:04:25] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:04:30] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:04:34] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:04:55] Oh, yeah. I'm going to be more in English. When Corregidor fell. Father became a prisoner of war, that was. And he told us about his experiences

**Sonny Izon** [00:05:13] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:05:24] When the Corregidor fell. My father was already there and she told us it's hard. I'm lost.

**Sonny Izon** [00:05:36] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:05:40] war when the Corregidor fell my father has become a prisoner of war and he told us about his experience in the Corregidor. That's the Japanese is very strict. And somebody the Japanese gave a punishment to a Filipino soldier. The punishment is about hitting them.

**Sonny Izon** [00:06:07] Hitting them with what

**Lydia De Lara** [00:06:08] with the wood, two by two piece of wood, the Japanese, my father tell us that the Japanese burned them with the brown rice and that boiled watercress. That's right. The eight.

**Sonny Izon** [00:06:44] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:06:47] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:07:21] I mean, when they surrendered

**Lydia De Lara** [00:07:22] when they surrendered, they they take them to the Compostella and they mostly some soldier over there gets sick because because the lack of food.

**Sonny Izon** [00:07:37] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:07:43] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:07:58] dysentery,

**Lydia De Lara** [00:07:59] dysentery. Yeah. So my grandfather told us that my father, after one day got malaria and dysentery.

**Sonny Izon** [00:08:10] And then at some point. Your father was released by the Japanese. Yeah, because you are already sick. My understanding is that there were some prisoners that were very sick that they released because as a publicity effort, so the Japanese were trying to show the world that they were humanitarian. In truth, they thought these guys

were going to die anyway. So they released the great fanfare. And I think your father was one of those.

**Lydia De Lara** [00:08:43] Yeah, I think so.

**Sonny Izon** [00:08:45] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:08:58] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:09:42] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:09:42] The prisoner of war. Yeah.

**Sonny Izon** [00:09:45] Yeah. When my father released from Compostella, so one of my uncles friend. So he went into the. And so that's why my, my uncles, when I get my father dead they said they take to the doctor so can my father can heal.

**Sonny Izon** [00:10:09] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:10:20] [in TAGALOG]

**Sonny Izon** [00:10:20] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:10:25] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:10:35] [in TAGALOG]

**Lydia De Lara** [00:12:05] while we are younger. My father just keep telling his story about the war, but sometimes we ignore him because they keep telling at this at the same story at the same time.

**Sonny Izon** [00:12:19] OK, so I found someone out there are.

**Lydia De Lara** [00:12:27] [in TAGALOG]