



Left by The Ship - Looking For a Father

LEFT BY THE SHIP - Emma Rossi Landi & Alberto Vendemmiati (interview)

Directed by: Emma Rossi Landi, Alberto Vendemmiati

Subic Bay, in the Philippines, was the largest US naval base outside the United States until 1992. Many women had no alternative but to become prostitutes in the nightclubs frequented by off-duty soldiers. The result is a generation of 50,000 Asian-Americans, the fruit of brief encounters cut short when the fleet returned home. The film follows the lives of four of them, caught between self-affirmation and conflicting feelings about their far-off fathers who remain indifferent to their existence.

Forgotten Filipino-American Children - Independent Lens | Left by the Ship | Trailer | PBS

Documentary about abandoned Filipino-Amerasians - mostly fathered by American servicemen when the US bases at Clark and Subic until 1992.

Estimates about their numbers vary ranging from 10,000 to as high as 300,000. The Pearl Buck Foundation has been using the 50,000 figure since the 1950's.

In the 1980's, the US congress passed a bill allowing Amerasians who can't present proper documentation to immigrate to the US. However, Filipino(as well as Japanese) Amerasians were excluded in the bill. The Congress reasoned that these areas were not "war zones" during the time covered by the bill despite the two countries being a staging point for the US Military in their involvement in their warfares in Asia.

The US Military has been in Asia since 1898 during the Spanish-American war. By 1918, it was been documented that about 18,000 Filipino-Amerasians have been abandoned by the American fathers in Manila alone.

Related links - (www.AboutPhilippines.ph has controlled the link 2012-06-25 but just now some are dead):

<http://leftbytheship.com>
<http://www.facebook.com#!/pages/Left-By-The-Ship-documentary/161245143887302>
<http://amerasianfamilyfinder.org>
<http://amerasianfoundation.org>
<http://amerasianlookingfortheirroots.bravehost.com>
<http://preda.org>
<http://pinoykids.org>
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,106430,00.html>
<http://secure.strangmagazines.com/index.php/component/content/article/248-peo...>
<http://www.wedprophils.org/updates/filam-youth-project>
http://www.proyectos-saluda.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&am...
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/amerasians/>
<http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/fisher/070415>
<http://www.nytimes.com/1993/06/21/world/abandoned-filipinos-sue-us-over-child...>
http://www.pmc.aut.ac.nz/postmortem/2008/080806_BCora.shtml
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/mondawilliams/2009/07/08/children-of-the-vietnam...>

Sign this petition to help Filipino(and Japanese) Amerasians left behind

http://www.petitiononline.com/mod_perl/signed.cgi?Subic73&1

JR, Charlene, and Robert are half American; they are among the many children born to U.S. servicemen who were stationed in military bases in the Philippines until in 1992. Their stories illuminate the limbo of a generation of Filipino Amerasians.

In 1982, the United States Congress voted to grant U.S. citizenship to Amerasians from Vietnam, Korea, Thailand, and other Asian countries, in what was known as the Amerasian Homecoming Act. Although the Philippines has been a United States ally for more than a century, Filipino (and Japanese) offspring of soldiers were not included: they must be claimed by their former American G.I. fathers if they wish to claim their U.S. citizenship.

The Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines was the largest naval base outside the United States mainland. The town of Olongapo, just outside its gates, did not exist until the base did. Its economy was built on the R&R needs of soldiers: More than 15,000 women worked in its red light district.

In 1992, the Marcos regime fell and the Filipino Senate voted to force the U.S. bases to close. At least 50,000 Amerasians remain in the Philippines today, and they suffer a great amount of discrimination.

Abandoned in early life, living with the stigma of being illegitimate children and unable to elude prejudice because it shows in their physical features, they are labeled "Iniwan ng Barko" (left by the ship). The assumption of every Amerasian person is that their mother was a prostitute and their father abandoned them. The children of African American soldiers are especially singled out and ridiculed.

What does the future hold for these forgotten children of the post-war world?

Forgotten Filipino-American Children - Independent Lens | Left by the Ship | Video Extra | PBS

In this companion video to the Independent Lens documentary, *Left by the Ship*, Robert, a Filipino Amerasian blogger meets with other Amerasians living in Olongapo City, whose fathers were U.S. servicemen once stationed here. Their stories are sadly consistent, telling of rejection and discrimination, along with a hope that they will be reunited with their fathers.

JR, Charlene, Margarita, and Robert are half American; they are among the many children born to U.S. servicemen who were stationed in military bases in the Philippines until 1992. Like most Filipino Amerasians, they were left behind by their biological fathers and largely forgotten. Over the course of two years, they delve into the psychological and social consequences of the U.S. military presence and its legacy.