Quezon and Eisenhower’s Fateful Friendship



During the time that Eisenhower’s spent at Malacanang Palace, a close friendship developed between him and President Quezon.

Besides the common goal of building the military, both men were avid card players. Poker and bridge were the preferred card games. Quezon introduced Eisenhower to many members of the Filipino political and business elite and prominent American businessmen in Manila. Although Eisenhower was only a Major and then a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S Army, he was respected and liked for his role and position plus his affable personality. He was invited to many exclusive functions in Manila.

During one of Quezon and Eisenhower’s card games, the urgent topic of Jewish refugees was broached by an American cigar maker who was Jewish. During the 1930s, Manila had a significant Jewish population. President Quezon and Eisenhower pledged that they would use their connections to resettle a sizable number of Jewish refugees. The actions of Quezon and Eisenhower resulted in the sanctuary of more than a thousand refugees.