

J.W./L.I. - B. Q. Hopkins (1 of 2)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: E.O. 13526

Folios 7

File: 999-2-31 Rk. 1

Title: Diary (Personal and Official Note).

Origin: Bernard O. Hopkins

Date:

Authenticity: Original

Source: Unknown

Extracted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Microfilm: R<sup>499</sup>

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

999

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 883078

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *ND 833078*

*SECRET*  
*Office*  
*...*

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

ARCHIVES FILE NUMBER 999-2-31 \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE PERSONAL & OFFICIAL NOTE \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGIN BERNARD O. HOPKINS \_\_\_\_\_

DATES \_\_\_\_\_

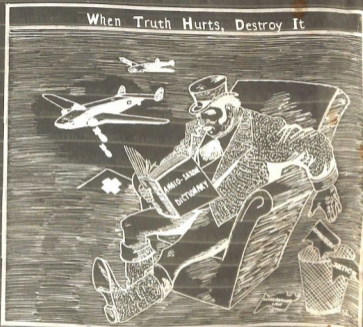
AUTHENTICITY ORIGINAL \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE UNKNOWN \_\_\_\_\_

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority ANN 883078

When Truth Hurts, Destroy It



COPIED FROM A CARTOON BY "ETTORE" IN THE FEBRUARY 4, 1943  
ISSUE OF THE "NIPPON TIMES WEEKLY". SEE EXPLANATION ON PREVIOUS  
PAGE.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority AND 83071

# RANGOON CIVILIANS BOMBED BY BRITISH !!!

NIPPON TIMES WEEKLY - 2-4-43

THE BRITISH AIR FORCE EXPOSED BEFORE ALL MAKING ITS UNSPEAKABLE BARBARISM BY CARRYING OUT A SYSTEMATIC BOMBING OF OUR HOSPITAL SHIP ARABIA MARU IN RANGOON HARBOR THE OTHER DAY. IT FOLLOWED THIS UP ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 24 WITH A RAID ON THE CITY OF RANGOON WHEN IT BOMBED A HOSPITAL, MOSQUE AND INDIAN RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS --- ON JANUARY 26, SEVEN ENEMY CONSOLIDATED BOMBERS AGAIN BOMBED THE CIVILIAN SECTION OF RANGOON. JAPANESE FIGHTERS IMMEDIATELY PURSUED AND SHOT DOWN TWO (ONE UNCERTAIN) OF THE BOMBERS - JAPANESE GROUND BATTERIES ALSO SENT DOWN ONE AND DEFINITELY SERIOUSLY DAMAGED ANOTHER. THOUGH MOST OF THE ENEMY PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN, THE CITIZENS RAGE AT THIS ADDITIONAL EXAMPLE OF ANGLA-AMERICAN HUMANITY HAS REACHED NEW HEIGHTS. THIS ATROCITY HAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED THEIR DETERMINATION TO DESTROY AMERICA AND BRITAIN -

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 883678

①  
 VISITING THE BATAVENESE

MARCH 11, 1942 - We arrived at the CP of the 4th Inf., 3d Inf. (PA), 1st Inf. Div., First Corps, at 6:15 PM, and I thanked each man with a pack of cigarettes - they were nearly demoralized - here I met 2nd Lt. Harold R. McBride, acting Battalion CO. in the absence of the Major, who had gone to Casuarina for a few days. Normally, Mr McBride is executive - they are the only two Americans in the Battalion - Mr McBride greeted me like a long lost brother, then told the cook to prepare a banquet. I had rice, sardines, bread, coffee, and some cookies that Mr McBride made this afternoon - here also, a soldier stood over the table and waved a branch back and forth to keep flies away - After dinner we talked until 10:30, getting acquainted and informing myself about the situation in his sector - 2nd Lt. McBride was a 1st Sgt. in the Air Corps two months ago, with 6 years service in the Army, and not a day

of it in Infantry. He is 33 years old. And now I must give McBride a bouquet for being my idea of why Bataan belongs to the USAFFE. I think my blood will boil when I hear of Generals and Colonels being cited. Probably the General said know McBride is in the Army at all - no does he know he lay between a day firing line two day and two nights when the firing was too heavy to let him get up - and, he got in there because he had to get in front of his wants make them advance. Citations should carry the names of those 2nd Lieutenants, and enlisted men who are on the line. And yet to say he just has to that because it is the only way he can do his duty. Where are the medals for these men coming from when the people who must award them are so far in rear of the lines they don't know whether their units are

advancing or retreating? --- And, having thoroughly convinced myself that the poor devils on Bataan are entitled to all the praise that goes their way, and that "missions" should be changed from "Bataan's mission is to protect Corregidor from the north," to "Corregidor's mission is to protect Bataan from the south" --- I turned in to sleep on a canvas cot with two wool blankets (no pillow, no mattress), the Major's pad. This is about 400 yards behind the MCR, and intermittent rifle fire by the outposts keeps up all the time.

MARCH 12TH -

This has really been a funny and an interesting day. It began about 8:00 A.M., when I awoke from a night of good sleep, interrupted occasionally by rifle fire over in the 11th Div sector, the adjacent unit on the right. On Bataan



the day begins rather late because one awakes when he wishes and nothing much happens before local daylight. Before starting for the front line, Lt. Mc Bride gave me the general picture of the organization in his sector. The battalion is composed of four companies, as follows: One regular rifle company is on the right of the front line, one field artillery battery, acting as an infantry company, is on the left, one machine gun company with two 50 cal. guns and 8-30 cal. guns is distributed along the front, and one field artillery battery, acting as a rifle company, is in battalion reserve. The front line, the MLR, is 915 yards long. About 300 yards ahead of that is the outpost line, and about 300 yards in rear of the MLR is the battalion reserve line. There is a double apron barbed wire fence about fifteen

yards ahead of the MLR and a single apron fence just ahead of the outpost line. The outpost line is composed of unconnected fox holes and the men on outpost are changed daily. Their duty is to discover and prevent enemy infiltrations, and to check an enemy assault and then fall back to the MLR. The MLR is a zig-zag trace, at some places within 5 yards of the barbed wire, and at others about 50 yards from the wire. First, the men dig individual fox holes, about four feet deep and three feet in diameter, with a roof of 5' long, leaving a horizontal slit about 10" high to fire through. From this position one rifleman can fire to the left and right about 45 degrees from this front. Fox holes are about 12 feet apart. After the fox holes were completed, a trench was dug in rear of them, passing within about 3 feet

of each foxhole. This trench joins all the  
holes and is used to bring up food and  
ammunition to the foxholes - In this fox hole  
each rifleman has about sixty cartridges, as  
well as a couple of tin cans to cook in and  
a bamboo mat to sleep on - At night he lays  
his mat in the abut ditch between his fox hole  
and the main trench and sleeps there, during  
the daytime his mat is rolled up and placed  
against the wall of his foxhole - The two  
50 cal. machine guns are sighted down trail  
that lead between the enemy lines, which  
could be used for a mechanized attack. The  
gunners have orders not to fire on ground  
except under exceptional circumstances, but  
to wait for a tank attack. They all have  
armor-piercing ammunition - The 50 cal.  
machine guns are generally sighted on

depression that would give the enemy  
shelter from some of our rifle fire. These  
depressions are filled with barbed wire, as well  
as slayed bamboo stakes driven into the  
ground with their slay points about two to  
three feet above the ground - A field of fire  
about 100 feet across has been cleared in part  
of the MLR. The logs are so close at timber cover  
in the slightest amount of brush that the ground  
in front of our line has been cleared almost  
bare. Large trees are cut down, cut into pieces  
about 8 feet in length, and the logs rolled onto  
our parapets between fox holes - Leaves are  
scraped up from the clearing and scattered  
on our parapets - Tin cans are hung in the  
wire to rattle when the wire is moved - The wire  
is very loosely strung, a product of the Engineers.  
In addition to the one front line trench, there

our communication trenches leading back to platoon leaders and company commanders, about 10 yards in rear of the front trench. None of the front line trenches are of Wood war I type with a fire step, but rather serve only as communication trenches between foxholes. -- While we were going through the front line trench, three dive bombers were operating in the vicinity. I was surprised to see the reaction of these men to the mere sound of airplanes. They literally scurried for cover in trenches and foxholes, even when it was obvious that the planes were far away. I must admit it was depressing to see these three planes flying leisurely over us, about three thousand yard altitude, with no plane of ours attacking them and no anti-aircraft fire to meet them. They made several

large circles over the area, probably making a couple of trial runs. After about an hour, we heard them drop their bombs and fly away. A few minutes later "Foto Joe" came over to see what damage had been done, and we were made everybody take cover. -- At the front, nearly every man begged for cigarettes. Ft. McN Bride said they usually got two cigarettes with their breakfast every few days. The men eat twice a day, had rice for breakfast at about 10:00 AM. The meals are prepared back at the battalion CP and company parties take the food to the men in the foxholes. -- I wanted to see how our position would look to a slope-eye, so I walked out ahead of the MCR and the faded wire about a 100 yards with a patrol that was going up to reconnoiter in No-Mans-land. The line looks grim, and I believe it can be held even against

10  
↓  
a determined bay assault - after it is thoroughly prepared - Now it is incomplete and the trenches are very shallow. -- We next went into the area known as 'the pocket' - It is impossible to describe that sight; words just won't paint the real picture. This is the scene of the bloodiest fighting thus far, and was a bay penetration of the 11th Div. sector. The pocket was cleaned up mostly by the 1st Regular Division (PA), and the men who fought there have really been in the war. -- The pocket was formed when about one battalion of Japs penetrated our front line one night and dug in overnight. By morning they were in deep fox holes (some of them forward, ones), with communication trenches and a well organized position. Most of their weapons were machine rifles having a magazine that carries 30 cartridges.

12  
They also had mines for use against personnel, and smoke candles. The candles were lighted when the Japs ran into heavy opposition and called for artillery concentrations on the smoke signal. The PA was thrown in to clean out the Japs - The Filipino Officers wouldn't lead their men, so American Lieutenants, recently commissioned from the ranks, went in front and the PA troops followed them. There was a terrific amount of fire from both sides, attracted to by the trees in that area. For fifty feet up from the ground the bullet marks on the trees are so dense that almost all the bark was off. Many trees, over a foot in diameter, were cut down by machine gun and rifle fire. Everything that is solid standing is all chewed up. Most of the Japs were killed in their fox holes - In mopping them up, our troops would concentrate automatic fire on one

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: AIN 7 843678

fox hole to keep the men down, while several of our men crawled up and killed him in the hole. The battle lasted about four days. Then the smell was so bad our troops could hardly stand it until all the bodies were found and buried. Most of the boys were just left in their holes and dirt was thrown in over them. Clothes and bits of equipment are still lying in the fox holes. After the area was thought to be cleaned up, there was still a terrible odor and several days later Lt. McBride took a patrol out and found fifteen dead boys in a dense gang in a bamboo thicket. They buried them there, and that was the last they have been bothered by the dead. One time they found a dead posse with several dead Filipinos on one side of it and several dead boys on the other, all of whom had

gone out with knives to cut meat off the horse, which had obviously been dead for considerably longer than the soldiers. -- The side on the front is high, though the supply situation is enough to justify dissatisfaction. Many of the men are without underwear, most have only one pair of fatigue clothes, and some are without shoes. Food gets progressively worse towards the front. Supply and special services troops eat better than the line troops. Something is wrong there -- I had a long way to go - taken by 8:00 P.M. - so I had to leave the front at 10:45 A.M. I wish I could have spent several days there, but that would probably be enough. The outfit in that position has for been there two months in World War I, troops were relieved in two weeks or less. Leaving the front, I went down Road 6 to Road 9, though the 11th Division area

(General Brown in command) about noon, and went past the engineer trail, Trail 17, past the CP 91st Division - about 1:00 P.M., and on down Sansain ridge to the Bagan-Maivalee road. On the way through the 91st Division as I was walking down the Maivalee Road, a Scout soldier driving a truck stopped to give me a ride for four kilometers. As soon as I was in the truck he said he would like to buy a package of cigarettes if I could spare him one. Here was my chance to verify what I had heard of the awful prices men were paying for what they should get with their nation. This man is a Private in the 24th FA (P), and is far enough behind the line to receive supplies. I said, "How much are they worth to you?" - "Anything you say, sir, I want them badly." He took out his wallet and I

could see he did have a lot of hill in it. Then I said, "I'll sell you one pack for ten pesos." He took the pack, gave me a ten peso bill and said, "That's good for me, thank you, sir." I gave the soldier back his ten pesos and told him that if anyone ever wanted to charge him more than twenty centavos a package for cigarettes he should shoot them. At 3:00 P.M. I was down to KM 208, at the Pagsawan River, where is located the 14th Medical Br. evacuation hospital for the west sector. The hospital is very cleverly improvised, practically all of bamboo, and is very completely equipped. It treats patients and keeps those requiring three day hospitalization, or less. All other cases are evacuated to a hospital at KM 182. - An MP Officer, Capt Lawrence, picked me up at KM 208 and drove me down to KM 182.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority AIN 53307P

SUMMARY - FIRST PHASES OF WAR

DECEMBER 10, 41

As to the war itself: - Our first indication of enemy plane action was a flight of planes which came in from the southwest, passed over Fort Frank and landed Nichols Field, in the near vicinity of Manila proper. This was the only night bombing raid of the war by heavy bombers at least till this date (Feb. 15th, 41) - It occurred 3:30 AM on January 9th. Clark Field, Fort Stotsenburg, and the Field, in Zambales Province, had been bombed the day before about midnight.

Starting on the 9th and for nearly 3 weeks afterwards, we watched and heard the Japanese bomb Manila, Cavite, Nichols Field, Nielson Airport, Langley Murphy, etc. - We could see the planes, sometimes as many as 45 planes at one time, flying back and forth, back and forth, unharmed by our Air Corps - Occ-

asionally, we would see AAA fire from our ISAFEE batteries in and around Manila - but we seldom noted hits on enemy planes - We couldn't figure out where our Air Corps was - unless they were working on the top transports and landing forces - "Yes, that must be it."

We noticed the Japs stumped close of Cavite - We wondered why. Sometimes we thought they wouldn't dare try us out, and we cried, "Show!" We told each other that "we'd sure like to see them try that plan!" - Sometimes we figured (probably correctly) that the Japs didn't bomb Cavite because they weren't ready to, yet. That is, they were after our Air Force, our Navy and their fields and bases - After that, after they had dealt the desired blows to them, then, perhaps, they'd come for Cavite - This seemed to have been correct - except that

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 883078

they crossed bombing Caszjela about two weeks after they started - at least they have bombed no more up to this date (Feb. 15th). The reasons for this are discussed in later entries.

As for the defenses of the P.I.s; - they were not so gloriously savaged as the radio and newspaper had claimed. I am one of the fast supporters in this vicinity of our cause. I told myself to be among the most optimistic of our men. Some are downright pessimistic, some, only a few, are actually swimming with fear. But I feel called upon to record some facts and reports as I know them and have heard them. Thus goes it:

The Air Corps was nearly wiped out, as far as offensive and even appreciable defensive strength is concerned, in one day. December

the 8th - On that day the Japs raided Clark Field and Sta Field where they caught our bombers and many of our other planes on the ground lined up as if for inspection. Some few B-17's (Flying Fortress) escaped along with some other types of planes, we lost many pursuit ships too, especially in the early morning raid on Nichols Field. But we did save some of those. Not enough, however, to seriously challenge the Jap supremacy thereafter. It must be recorded that the Air Corps, since the first blow was struck, and ever since, has done a beautiful job! It is heartwarming, or well as almost heartrending, to see the courageous fight against great odds that they have done. This work has fallen mainly on the P-40 pilots. But all the Air Corps officers and men were ready, if

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 833078



the planes should be had, to do the same. There are stories put out as to how and why the Air Corps was so hard hit so early. Some of the stories intend to excuse the loss; others to fix the blame for it - I do not profess to know the truth; I give the stories for what they are worth - Someone must be to blame and he (or they) should someday be found and made to stand judgement. At present I merely tell the stories as I have heard them. I do not wish to start a controversy - the deed is done, the blow has fallen - It is our job to fight with what we have not with what we'd like to have - Here are the stories of why we lost our Air Force:

I - Warning to Clark Field was cut by Fifth Columnists - (I don't believe this one. Radio was working, news broadcast was on the

air; and I know both officers and men at Clark Field and Fort Stotsenburg that did know)

II Genl MacArthur, his staff, or someone in authority had ordered all planes to avoid hostilities until an overt act had been committed. (That overt act when it came was the nearly complete ruin of our Air Force. This story seems to have certain alliances with facts as occurrences seem to indicate them)

III At Sta. Zambales, where a bunch of B-17's were caught warning was given by the Aircraft Warning Service in advance. The AWS is said to have announced over land speakers: "Jap planes 25, 20, 15, 10, 5 miles out to sea! And, then, 'Planes overhead, dropping bombs!' Still planes were held on the ground - they hadn't even been dispersed.

IV German officer masquerading as American

which prevented issuance of orders.  
 The Air Corps had been up all night on the 7th and 8th and had been called in to rest and get a hot lunch at about noon on the 9th. The Japs came at 12:45 P.M. and caught all the planes on the ground.

No story have I yet been told as to how much dispersion of Air Force was attempted or when. Our bombers left for the Mindanao area and thence to NEI area soon afterwards. Clark Field, their base here, was useless to them.

For weeks here on Corregidor we wondered where our Air Corps was, but we passed it off that they were needed elsewhere; after all, we never had had such a large force anyhow. Rumor was heard as to heavy losses at Clark Field and Iba. I, for one, refused

to credit them. Then I had to credit them, at least partly, because the rumor came from people who must know.

We figured the Dahu strike was just a fluke. The Japs had done something unthought of. But our base! We on Corregidor had heard of Dahu's disaster 1 1/2 hours before Clark Field was hit - or Iba! I for one just couldn't see how it happened. I can't see it yet! But it did happen! Someday the true story will be out - some high rank someone to be blamed a good bit - if not cashiered!

Now, for the land Defense: -

I do not think that even the Japs expected to demolish our air force to so great an extent so quickly. This, I believe, explained the fact that the Japs did not make a major landing attack on Luzon for a week or ten days after

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND 883678

32  
was started. They made landings at  
Aparri, Ugan, and Taguigi on Luzon and at  
Darus on Mindanao. The intent was evidently  
to take advantage of a large Japanese  
civilian colony and to set up a base for  
operations to the southward. The first three  
were in more or less remote areas of Luzon -  
as I see it, they were in areas from which  
the Japs could send land-based aircraft to  
support their major landings to come later  
on. It is noteworthy that the Japs did not  
engage these landing forces into a major  
thrust into central Luzon. They made these  
major landings later, at Lingayen and  
Antipona - supported by aircraft based  
at the earlier landing places.

The Japs were faced by the Philippine  
Army Divisions - Genl MacArthur 160,000

25  
trained troops - as he is said to have  
described them - and certain U.S. Army troops,  
Tanks, Cavalry and Air Corps - as well as the  
AR regiments. The major portion of the U.S.  
Army troops were in reserve - there were the  
21st Infantry (American) and the Philippine  
Division (Philippine Scout Infantry and support  
troops).

From the first the PA began to give ground  
almost without resistance - in some regions  
they just ran! Without even firing their weapons!  
All the PA did not run - but not much of it  
would stand up and really fight. The officers  
come in for much censure. In many cases  
they led the disgraced retreats. They had  
been told to fight a delaying action, to  
make the Japs deploy, to force the Japs to  
get off the roads, go out into battle formation,

attempt flanking movements, etc., before they could hope to advance. But the P.A. Officers, and men, also had orders not to get too heavily engaged, not to get pinned down, but to withdraw before that stage was reached. Well, the results which could have been expected occurred - the P.A. Officers, knowing little of terrain, little of strategy, and very little of any military science, would pull out and retreat as soon as the Japs came near. In many, many cases a small patrol of Japs - sometimes as few as 5 or 6 - would get on the flank of a whole Division of P.A. troops - the Filipinos hearing a few shots would become alarmed - "Flank! Envelopment! Disaster!" A contagious nearly panic-stricken retreat to a new position ~~to~~ the rear would take place.

The Tanks and Cavalry (American and Philippine Scouts) troops fought valiantly - the little bit of Cavalry that was left fought with terrific courage and vengeance, making trip after trip after trip back to its few boxes for bombs, ammunition and fuel. These troops are responsible for whatever delay the Japs suffered. Cases are actually recorded - not isolated cases, either - where the Japs marched down the road with bombs in front and guidons flying! Of course the Japs walked into some slaughter, it is true, but still they felt reasonably safe in so marching.

The poor Tanks and Cavalry! They'd go out in the morning to counterattack, would come their way through hundreds of Japs making a tremendous push! When they came back at night they'd find the infantry (P.A.) had retreated instead of advancing and they (Tanks

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 833078

and cavalry) had a day's infantry march to make in order to catch up. In one case the infantry retreated so fast that the engineers had to blast a big bridge over a river to hold up the gaps. 27 of our tanks caught on the gap side of the dismantled bridge had to be abandoned and their crews had to swim the river.

I do not intend to criticize the P.A. troops. Many of them had been under arms only a few days when war came. Many had not fired their rifles before the war. They were not trained (Many American officers speak very sadly about this and about Gen MacArthur's previous statements about his "160,000 trained Filipino conscripts") The Filipino officers in the P.A. had little real training as officers. Most of them were ROTC graduates of civilian

schools - and ROTC in the P.I. is nothing like as good as in the U.S. where it is considered, at least, as a last possible substitute. These P.A. officers floundering in their work and quarters (that means and to many orientals) would shut around in boots and shiny leather ingraining their lovely daughters and the Filipino young ladies. American officers describe them in war as "always sleeping, eating, or slipping oil on their hair".

There are refreshing examples of exceptions to the description I have given of P.A. officers. But they were too few. As time goes on, more and more P.A. officers are getting their military feet on the ground. Among those who were getting much worth their salt all along were the Philippine Constabulary officers and the Bagis (Military Academy) West Point graduates. These

Officers were and are among the best. I have inadvertently neglected to mention the Philippine Constabulary troops. These are the only field force troops the P.I. had during the war except for Gen MacArthur's nucleus P.A. They were a sort of rural police force which maintained order in the remote provinces and maintained order in the ~~remote~~ commonwealth authority at the same time. They have a very creditable if not glorious record. And they - small body that they are - stand next to the Philippine Scouts for excellence among Filipino troops in the war - they did not run!

The P.A. finally did begin to settle down. About the middle of January signs of real stiffening began to appear - to the great relief and joy of everyone - this alone saved the

USAFFE. The stiffening came about the time the US Army troops, held in reserve until this time, were thrown in - in northern Batang province. These troops fought valiantly, took terrific losses in order to hold their position and to reestablish the line when P.A. troops dropped back on both sides and left the US Army troops (P.S. and American) isolated where the front lines used to be. The example of these US Army troops (and the Philippine Constabulary) finally began to impress itself on the mass of the P.A.

In order to shorten the exposed coasted flank (my supposition) so as to lessen the danger of Japanese landings on the coast line of Batang, behind the front lines and south of the Cavajida area, the "front" lines were withdrawn to the "Boyer-Peter" line. This

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority AMN 7 833078

line cuts the Bataan Peninsula in half and is the line on which it has been planned to stand off the invader for many years. About this time the P.A. got its feet on the ground.

In their struggles to save the day in northern Bataan the 31st Infantry - American soldiers of wide fame - lost about 45 or 50% of its strength as casualties. They took boys along with them in numbers ranging from 10 to 50 for 1. Their record stands forever glorious. The 45th Infantry (P.S.) and the 57th Infantry (P.S.) of the U.S. Army's Philippine Division (a reserve unit Bataan) also have covered themselves with glory. The Artillery, pounding the jungle and the bay batteries for days, held the front lines almost single handedly and time after time found itself firing in all directions when the P.A. withdrew.

Genl MacArthur issued a proclamation to his troops - especially those in Bataan - reading in all to stand and fight. He stated that those who ran would be destroyed by the enemy and that only those who stood and fought could achieve victory and escape destruction. The last line had been reached. Well, the line held and it held for many reasons: - the fine work of US Army troops and the P.C., the fine work of the stepping P.A. (filled with a heaven of American Army officers and men) and the wonderful work of the Artillery - Even the Air Corps did its noble part in observation, fighting, even bombing and strafing, with its few little P-40's.

That is in brief the story of the "glorious withdrawal" to Bataan.

The occupation of Manila nearly became a picnic. It started about December 27th

and entered about January 1st. The Japs entered Manila on January 2nd. Even the American troops were caught in the rush to "get out" in time. Many of the civilians speak of the episode as the "abandonment of Manila".

The evacuation was accompanied by the movement of supplies, etc., to Cavite and Batan - barges, ships, tugs, scows, launches, ferry boats, naval vessels - all sort of craft moving supplies to Batan and Cavite. The Japs could not have failed to see the concentration of shipping in the vicinity - It was a source of continued wonderment to me why they didn't bomb the concentration - Their demolition planes came over day after day. The barges were clustered - not dispersed. The Cavite dock area was clustered - The Japs on both sides of the island were crowded with at

least 60 or 75 miscellaneous craft, ranging from pile drivers and private yachts up to destroyers and 5,000 ton freighters -

At Calapan and Mariveles (debarcation point on Batan) much the same existed. The Jap continued to bomb Cavite and Manila - the "open city" but didn't attempt to bomb us over here. They did bomb Cavite on December 29th, but that was before the concentration of shipping - After that they left us alone until January 2nd. And by that time much of the congestion was relieved.

During the evacuation of Manila the USAFFE Headquarters, High Commissioner Sygne, President Quezon and numerous civilians - dependents, war correspondents, radio station operators, volunteers to take care of utilities and to build tunnels, etc - all these arrived and

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 833078



of a sudden - Vessels loaded with troops were seen moving to Manila to occupy the north Luzon line.

In and around Manila tremendous demolition was accomplished. The guns were blown up, gasoline was burned and burned, bridges were destroyed. Cavite and Obayages were demolished - Quil they exploded and exploded, and glared all night long! For several nights! Railroad and highway bridges from Manila to San Fernando, Pangasinan were demolished. As much as could be done was done. In Manila proper (I mean) all but one bridge across the Pasig River was destroyed. The Philippine Cold Storage, Bahitawak (Japanese owned) Brewery, Philippine Manufacturing Company, etc., plants were destroyed.

27  
A radio announcer in Manila when he announced over the air that his station was going off the air by order of the military authorities (his was the last station to close down) was heard to cross himself and pray (in Latin) for God's help as the station faded out.

Much demolition which could have been done was not accomplished, due to lack of time. The Air Corps at Nichols Field left in a hush and turned over what was left behind - all the PX stock, food trucks, guns, vehicles, equipment, etc., to the platoon of AA MG troops who were there from Cavite to "protect" the field. The soldiers got huge packing cartons of cigarettes, clothing, liquor, etc., from such "gifts in abundance". On one pier on the water front a bunch of goods consigned to Japanese firms was piled on the pier. Custom agents

said to troops (AA Co of the regiment) "Here, boys, this is bag stuff, confiscated, take what you want!" The soldiers did. They got into a stock of whiskey and cigarettes and came out with trucks full!

On Concepcion the fact that the boys waited from December 7th to December 31st to bomb Concepcion was a life-saver. The various staffs on the post moved several times, finally ending up in Malinta Tunnel. Ammunition was moved out into the open, DM stocks, ordnance shops, offices and HQ personnel were moved into tunnels. The misguided people - most of us - who bought our concrete two-story barracks were longwinded tried to find room for our HQ section in them - what a shock! Luckily most of the troops were moved out ahead to their better positions - And most of the

bombs landed where troops weren't - I shudder to think that we used to use those barracks as air raid shelters for women and children in our pre-occupation of dependent aid for air raids! What a blessing that they were not there to be slaughtered.

I know of one Colonel - very high ranking - a classmate of Paul MacArthur's, who stoutly argued that the barracks was perfectly fortified - he moved his regimental headquarters into the first floor and sandbagged the portals and doors with sacks of cement - Well, as luck would have it his office did not get hit - but barracks only a hundred feet away did - and the bombs went clean through to below the ground floor concrete before they burst - and when they burst!!!

That colonel has ever since had his head quarters in a tunnel!

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority RMD 83678

The failure of the Japs to bomb Cavite sooner enabled all the eskalons to get completely moved. The electric railroad was running constantly, and by the time it was bombed out practically everything of importance had been removed to where it was needed. Oh, there are glamp cases of material which wasn't moved - of negligence and oversight - but there are only emphasizing the great good fortune of our being left alone for over three weeks. I have previously stated that the defenses were ready by December 3rd. The guns were, but the supply and services were not ready!

The last few pages have been written as a summary of the first stages of the war. Much remains to be said.

LETTER

Copied below is a letter written to an Officer or Comandante by Placida Moraton (where she got the Irish last name I know not - very probably an American soldier is listed among her antecedents). She had evacuated to Naic, a small town in Cavite Province on the south shore of Manila Bay - within artillery range of the fortified islands - A few days after Placida, the lavandera, wrote this letter her village was occupied by the Japs - (Placida was formerly a lavandera for this Officer - the letter is copied exactly as she wrote it):

BURGOS ST.  
NAIC CAVITE P.I.  
DEC. 23, 1941

CAPT \_\_\_\_\_  
DEAR SIR: OH! HELLO, CAPT. — LET ME GREET

MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. I HOPE LETTER  
OF MINE WILL REACH YOU ALL AND IN GOOD CONDITION.  
AS LIKE ME HERE. I'M HEALTH BY HELP OF GOD. I'M LIVING  
WITH MY MOTHER, SISTERS, AND HIS FIVE KIDS. I'M HAPPY  
TAKING CARE MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS THIS IS MY BEST  
JOB I CAN DO. BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL LONELY AND  
SAD BECAUSE OF BEING MISSING CORREIDOR - CORREIDOM  
IS MY ISLAND - THE LAND I SPENT MY CHILDHOOD FOR  
MANY YEAR. WELL WHAT CAN I DO JUST SUFFER IT AND  
IF GOD PERMIT I BE BACK AGAIN TO YOU, THINK SO.  
CAPT. \_\_\_ ? I NOT FAIL MY CHANGE FOR HELP OF GOD.  
SO I'M ALWAYS PRAYING TO GOD TO SAFE ME AND GIVE  
ME LONG LIFE THAN I SEE FORT MILLS AGAIN  
LASTLY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU AND TO  
ALL. GOD SAFE AND HELP YOU ALL.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS -

PLACIDA MONAHAN

OPENING POSTER - MORRISON HILL POST EXCHANGE

NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE - NOTICE

MORRISON HILL POST EXCHANGE

THIS IS TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE MORRISON  
HILL POST EXCHANGE AT ITS NEW LOCATION AT 212 CRUDE OIL  
DRIVE, JUST OPPOSITE "SLEEPY" DURAN'S BEANERY.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE SLANT-EYED SONS OF HIS EXACTED  
IMPERIAL MOST HIGH OF HIGHS THE ONCE GREAT AROHITO DO NOT  
FAVOR US WITH THEIR BELOVED PRESENCE, BETWEEN THE HOURS  
OF 1:00 P.M. AND 2:00 P.M., THE TOBACCO LOUNGE AND THE  
COSMETIC COUNTER OF THE M.H.P.E. WILL BE OPEN AT THAT  
TIME. ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS WILL BE CLOSED TO THE GENERAL

PUBLIC DUE TO THE NECESSITY OF REPLENISHING STOCKS.  
LISTED BELOW ARE THE ARTICLES TO BE PLACED ON SPECIAL SALE:-

CIGARETTES - ALL FLAVORS AND COLORS PER CARTON \$ 1.00

TOBACCO - GOOD OL' BULL DURHAM PER BAG \$ 0.10

CIGARS - EL STIMBO DEL ORIENTE PER PAIR \$ 0.05

MATCHES - SAFETY - GUARANTEED TO STICK PER CTN \$ 0.10

CHEWING GUM - CHIELETS OR GUMPIN' PER PACK \$ 0.10

SOAP - PALMOLIVE OR G.I. PER OZK \$ 0.10

47  
SIDELIGHTS

During the period prior to the bombing of Corregidor military activity was intense in the bay area. At Cavite, on Babao, a debarcation pier was rushed to completion. From time to time during the first few weeks of the war we saw ships - most of them British - come into the harbor for shelter. We saw submarines and destroyers. Two of the latter stayed for quite a while, then they left one night, but not until after we had seen the Japs try and try to bomb them with heavy bombs - and fail. The submarines stayed quite awhile, "taking cover" by lying on the bottom of the bay most of the day and coming up about dusk for air, recharging batteries, etc. - Then they too were gone - to return fortwo days later, one at a time - only a few in all returned here. They came back for more torpedoes

and fuel. Ray said there were targets galore in the China Sea.

We saw small boats, tug boats, etc in Manila Bay generally being bombed and found to haul precious cargoes of military supplies. We praised these civilians called into military service for the sake of their boats with silent appreciation of the risks they took and the wonderfully important work they were doing. It takes nerve to be a tugboat captain towing a barge of gravel when the bombers are buzzing and roaring overhead and bombing the pier you tie up to, the boat, you gas, if not you!

The Navy with its observers in outposts and its direction finding radio intercept station gave us good messages as to the approach of Jap bombers from Formosa. We learned to rely on these messagers. They were only

valuable especially while the heavy bombing of Corregidor was going on - After that ceased we got but few "heavy messages" - and just as few planes appeared - We had our own Army Aircraft Warning Service (AWS) - They too were helpful as were the outposts of our own harbor defense batteries which sent us "flash messages" on all planes in the vicinity, night and day - Chicago and all the batteries belong to this network - Our observers are alert and wear a headset and microphone all day and night - always ready!

DEC. 21, 1941 ---

Well, it's two weeks already - and no bombs yet - We don't know whether the Japs are holding off so as to "soften" us up by delay or whether they feel that we can wait until they want

Manila Bay - or whether the Democratic allies have Japan pretty well contained. It does look to me as though the Japs are trying to close the encirclement of the Philippines by attacking Hongkong, Borneo and Singapore - If they get Singapore we will be in a spot. The Hongkong garrison is holding out yet - Don't least go out to them in their desperate struggle without aerial support - We pray the Chinese will be able to relieve the pressure but we must admit it looks black.

DEC. 25, 1941 ---

Some Christmas - full of inconsistencies; bombs fall on nearby targets - missed Corregidor completely - on Christmas eve - Today it is quiet - up to now - We are preparing to eat a turkey dinner - Imagine! turkey in the

trunk! But the kids were in the food messes and no better time could be found to eat them. If the boys bomb them, they'll suffer for it!

We had a Christmas tree too, a small one that Lt. Pass brought from his quarters. I am not taking part in decorating it - I want to do that with you and Rita.

We are trying to find ways of cheering the men. I mean make them realize how much it is worth while to fight for the preservation of such institutions as Christmas symbolizes. Captain Ames is going to talk to them in a little while.

There is no use trying to hide the gravity of the situation. We are heavily outnumbered. The threat we feel becomes worse every day for us - but we are unafraid. We got some

help from the Dutch at Davao the other day. Still the situation is decidedly grave. We will do as Houghley and the others have done - to the bitter end.

Dec 26, 1941

Yesterday, when Captain Ames talked to the men, he told them that the situation was decidedly grave but that we had to buckle down and turn to the job of holding out. He told them that liberty loving people all over the world had their eyes on them - that they had to hold out, and would, to the last man. Then in view of the fact that it was Christmas Day the entire battery gathered round and sang "God Bless America" - The Captain is not a musician but he could lead the men in song - They sang fervently. - We have

all types of men here, steady, determined  
and loyal clear through - Only one or two are  
showing signs of mental strain - They need only  
a little less suspense to bring them to an  
even keel of nerves.

Christmas dinner was wonderful, was if  
interrupted by bay raids on Manila - I ate  
mine - most of it - in competition with a big  
fellow who tried to eat it for me while I stood  
by my "Action Station" - I had carried my chair  
with me when the alarm went - We were  
absent for quite awhile - Later I got some  
more food - six - oh, such a delicacy! I  
really felt guilty, thinking of the many who  
were eating bitter bread in the front lines  
on the mainland - However, ours will be the  
final struggle - We will bear the full weight  
of all they have - How soon we cannot

say - God willing we shall prevail -

Dec. 30, 1941 -

Well, we have had our first real air raid -  
The Japs came over on Dec 29th at 11:50 AM.  
and stayed until about 2:30 PM. - They came  
in low at first, and then when we punished  
them on the first flights - we got 3 or more  
miles up - they went up to a very great altitude  
and bombed indiscriminately - they brought  
dive bombers along - We got a couple of those  
too - We fear that plenty of planes did get  
back to Japan - When they were at high  
altitudes we had a great deal of trouble  
getting them "in range" before they dropped  
their bombs - Many landed in the water and  
many more in the woods - They got a haul  
of kuddies, but practically no military



equipment or ammunition - Topside Cine,  
Post Studio, Ptas 104 (St. Poca), Ptas 20 (Col.  
Ammun., Capt Paterson, Capt MacNair), Ptas 13,  
Major Short quarters and some other were  
blown to bits - 119-L was pretty well blasted  
but not directly hit - 164 was missed but  
all the shell windows were blown out -  
Capt Ames still hasn't found his house, did -  
We suffered no casualties in the battle  
no bombs came over close - (We are beginning to  
to have our camouflage) the men performed  
wonderfully - Only one man took flight and  
left his post - He was not a valuable man  
and came back at once afterward - no hand  
done - Of all the shell fragments, machine  
gun and cannon bullets, as well as bombs  
none caused any injury here - We are  
phenomenally lucky - a few of the

batteries suffered a few casualties,  
but on the whole we (the whole island) got  
by fine -  
The Club - Officers - got it too - a direct  
hit - The golf course is full of holes - Although  
the "Rock" is badly pockmarked there is really  
very little to show for all the work the Japs  
did - We know now that our fire sent them  
up high where all they could do was look  
at the island as a whole - As a result they  
missed the areas where our military  
installations are -  
Well, we just had an "alert" but it was a  
false alarm - The Japs haven't been "at us"  
today - They did bomb Makivolas (Lainis) twice  
but has burned to the ground since - no  
military objective there, just nice shops -  
We have been alerted for sea gulls

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: NND 833978

in the distance and for planes which  
 orbit them. Today we had a big "to do"  
 about the planet Jupiter which is visible  
 during the day. It looks like a balloon or  
 a parachute (it has phases just like the  
 moon) We had a small argument over our  
 "flash unit" about it. Col. Amersoo wrote  
 that a plane had thrown out a balloon!

Dec 31st, 1941

Well, no dogs today. The latest report  
 says that we have a total of 14 planes out  
 of about 40 or 50 the other day. That is  
 damned good shooting. They have stayed  
 clear for two days since. We expect them  
 to come back at night now - Wried one -  
 Capt Anai, Lumbay, Paudavis, come  
 back today. He spent a couple of evenings

and air raids (alarm) too, in the woods -  
 He doesn't want to quit. Damned "game" Filipio.  
 There is a full moon tonight - good "spooring"  
 weather - but also good bombing weather -  
 damn it!

Jan 3, 1942

Again wave from raiders! Yesterday and  
 today it was very cloudy yesterday. The  
 planes, Mitsubishi 97s, came in above the  
 clouds and found a tiny hole. They dropped  
 their bombs there and just missed the island.  
 They scored a lucky hit - one killed Captain  
 A.W. Hamilton (59th CA) and a few of his men.  
 a direct hit on a C.P. (concrete building,  
 six feet underground). It was a sneak raid  
 we didn't know it was coming until the  
 bombs hit. I was sleeping when I heard

planes, bombs falling, and started to run. Then I heard bombs hit, so did I! When the detonation ceased I got up and ran like hell for the CP. Over there we were unable to fire because of the solid concrete. The Japs only dropped one load.

Today they came over again. The sky had cleared alternately southeast "hole-by" and clear all day. Just as they arrived holes appeared. They bombed once through a hole and missed badly. Then they passed over again and were fired on through the holes. They bombed quite close this time. One rock as big as a football was tossed two hundred yards and hit about six feet from my head. It dented the rim of a 55 gallon gasoline barrel (used as a splint-wood) about 4 inches. A third flight of six came over in a big

hole - Denver opened up, then Chicago. Then (Denver) bursts were all up there and then there was a period when no bursts appeared. Then ours began to appear - they were "right in there"! Then! A direct hit! Right in the motor housing! The plane veered off and dove to the right, crashing in the China Sea. Hot dog! Did we feel good! Out of this six there were destroyed, at least one by Chicago, and some reports have it that five were shot down. We gave 'em hell! There were at least seven Japs in each plane. Hot man that at least 21 and perhaps 35 of 'em paid the bid.

Capt Ames got a letter from Florida in Naic. I am afraid that the Japs are close to there now. They took Manila and Cavite last night. But they'll play hell taking this place!

I mean it! Of course we can't hold out forever but we can hold for a damned long time - and we will - Bring on the U.S. Navy - will still be here!

I couldn't send you a radiogram for two years, as I had planned - Manila fuel, as was about to end all radio, etc., facilities were blown up - Think of it! Hundreds of boys fight over them in Manila and Cavite - And they'll play hell getting at us. They'll eventually get us, but they'll pay dearly for their efforts.

The USAFFE flew and burned hell out of Manila - the damned place burned for four days - It put clouds of smoke over us for as long - Worried us no end because it cut down our visibility. But it is all over now (Manila; fire, I mean).

The Jap claim that they took Cavite after

heavy fighting against the defenders - there was only a hospital detachment left there - not even a single Marine or sailor, able to walk, was left when Cavite was evacuated. How those Japs stretch the truth! Holy Smoke! To listen to them you'd think Corregidor was completely mined - they haven't begun to hurt the military effort yet.

January 6, 1942:

Wow, a couple more days of "bravies". Yesterday was somewhat light in comparison to the days just before - January 4th was a heavy day, but we had only 3 casualties on the entire island. Yesterday was fairly light - A bomb hit 15 feet from Ft. Pore and Capt. Cornwall who was in their CP. (a sandbag splinterproof, open to the sky). They were not hurt.

Dec splinterproof are giving themselves  
worthy.

Today was really busy. They were dropping  
500 lb bombs - many 300 lb ones. About 40  
planes came over. Much of the time we could  
not fire, due to their extreme height. The  
damned clouds at the limit of fire of our  
guns would prevent it, and we'd have to  
stand in our "open-to-the-sky" splinterproof  
and wait for the bombs to whistle by (we  
found). They did - all but a few which landed  
nearly. The MQ's up above were bombed out  
but miraculously ~~no~~ <sup>one</sup> was ever snatched.  
Their position was undamaged, but they  
are changing just the same - it's good for  
 morale.

General Moore paid us a visit  
today. The men appreciate such visits.

#### SIDE LIGHTS - UNDATED

1. A few days after the war began we saw  
the Marshal Joffre - a rich, French boat band  
for Japanese controlled French Indo-China  
because this part. We wondered why she wasn't  
detained.

2. A few days after the war began we saw  
a vessel (we believed her to be Free French)  
enter Mariveles harbor. She was the "SIRIANO".  
She sat there for a long while. The Japs bombed  
at her for a while but missed. Then on  
December 25th she was hit by one bomb,  
after having been missed by fifty or sixty  
others dropped in several successive attacks  
on her. She didn't sink. She started to burn  
and she burned for at least 100 hours -  
finally sinking after about the fourth day  
of terrific fire. I didn't know that a vessel

could burn as furiously as long. Later  
I saw other vessels burn for as long as  
10 days. Some didn't sink. Others did. Why  
the fires weren't fought and put out.

3 - In the process of moving people into tunnels  
and stocks and much equipment was placed  
in "open storage" (piles in the woods, along  
the roads, etc). The quartermaster, a  
Fletcher or Comptroller who had been trying  
to get shovels to dig with, lumber to build  
with, nails to drive, etc. - they had a many  
day-run battery included. Hauling supplies  
to their position and going to work with  
them. Much of the "war reserve" of tools,  
etc., was put to work at once. Actually,  
much too much was removed from these  
piles which had become a sort of grab  
bag. Later much was returned voluntarily

when a "no question asked" call was  
issued. We turned in a good bit that we  
had no need of. We reported what else we  
had and were allowed to retain it in use.  
4 - Barges of food, etc., were brought here  
from Manila. Among others was those  
loaded with raisins, peaches and dried mixed  
fruits (labelled "For Shanghai") and one with  
nothing but whiskey on it. The whiskey barge  
was sunk. But many a soldier went swimming  
in the shark-infested waters and got himself  
a supply. (I managed to buy 40 quarts of  
White Horse for \$100 per qt. from a Marine).  
Later the M.P.'s took control of the whiskey  
situation - relieving the soldiers of their hard  
earned loads as they reached the beach  
side roads. Many a quart was had by many  
a soldier however before the M.P.'s stepped in.

The bags of dried fruits finally drifted ashore. So we all went for it on the run. We at Chicago got 40 or 50 cases of assorted fruit. The DM said he had more than he could handle anyway, so we got all we could. It certainly came in handy for passing time later on. Then there was a bag of canned milk and cake chocolate. These were sunk. We managed to get quite a few cases of milk and some chocolate. We had to pry off the swollen wooden cans to dislodge the milk. The chocolate was partially spoiled (a sort of skin-penetration only) by salt water. We scraped off the spoiled part. Nowadays (February 15th) it is the only candy left on the island - and damn hard to find at that. I know only one officer who has any left.

JANUARY 8, 1942:

Today is one more day since we entered the war. Our first day of war on the 8th of December. It has been what the men call "pretty rugged", especially the last ten days. We know we have had it easier than the men out on the front lines in northern Hateson and southern Zanteles, but the heavy bombing to which we have been subjected, almost without any air support whatever, has not been pleasant. And yet the morale is still high. There have been times when it dipped a bit lower - we have had one man "lose his nerve" and break down - but I am more than proud of the way the men have taken their pounding and "sicked it out" right back as hard and as far as we could. We have been given credit for 4 planes so far. We know of about 10 that we have

downward, but it is impossible at times to identify who hits what plane. The men are quite satisfied - they know they are good. The best in the regiment. And they're not considered either.

It is somewhat gratifying to be able to see all the work we put in out here over the last two and one half years prove its real worth. Our outfit was more ready than any other. Our air splinterproofing, camouflage and concealment arrangements have saved untold lives, prevented fear and have also saved lives.

People used to scoff at our splinterproofing and camouflage - now they admire it and emulate it - or try to. It used to be hard to get the men to fill sandbags - now it is hard to keep them from laying boards on all

the sandbags available and filling them when there to when they are allotted a visit looking. It is surprising what a sandbag will stop. Steel boiler-plate and sheet metal stop very little, but are penetrated easily. Take a steel gasoline drum alone - empty - and it won't stop splinters. Put earth or sand in it and it will stop M.B. or cannon fire. A sandbag alone will stop splinters (bombs or shell fragments) and some M.B. fire.

Bombs do some queer things - a couple have fallen which penetrated twenty or more feet straight downward and then have "blown out" the hole without disturbing the surrounding earth. The result is a "jost-hole" twenty feet deep and about 15" in diameter. Other bombs have burst on impact with trees or with debris flying up from previous explosions.



The reports then are a "fairout" for all times  
in the vicinity.

We just had an alert. There were 11  
of them - they went by us to the southward (well  
to our west when they passed) They may swing  
around and come in from the rear (in the sun).  
I hope not. We are not sure they are Japs - I  
think so, but some of the men have hopeful  
thoughts that they may be U.S. planes. We have  
found remains of U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, Navy,  
etc. We do not favor confirmation of any of  
the rumors - They help morale but may mis it  
if allowed too much play and then proven  
false - I try to discount them as much as  
possible without destroying what benefit they  
can produce - I hope they are true, but I think  
it is easier yet for converted help - I believe  
Sam is going to come plenty strong

when he comes - and getting that strong  
takes time - plenty of time.

JANUARY 12, 42.

Its now six days since the last bombing.  
We do not know why it has been so quiet -  
We have mixed hope and fears - not real  
fears, just deep concern. We think that we are  
receiving help from somewhere - from somewhere  
we haven't been told about, which is making  
the Japs use their heavy bombers elsewhere.  
We think perhaps the Japs may be concentrating  
on Hawaii, the NEI and Singapore - And we think  
that perhaps the Japs are getting moved into  
Luzon to await the "big push" against us - I  
guess time will tell.

I am not sure at what is going on in our  
front lines. The big dive bombers have been

hunting for our field artillery - I don't know whether or not they have found any - I hope not.

This is a funny island now - No one except defense forces live at Topside or Middleside - Everyone who doesn't need to be somewhere else lives in a tunnel, chiefly Malita.

We have war correspondents, State Dept officials, P.I. Govt officials, Army, Navy and Marine Corps officials, Filipino laborers, barbers, plumbers, floor-moppers, M.P.'s, civilian employes, wanderers, sick, frightened and detained - all in one tunnel or another. It is a revelation to walk through these tunnels - At one time you are rubbing elbows with the daughter of some P.I. official, doing a lady war correspondent, talking to a Navy official, being jostled by a plumber, smallpox

medicines, having variable food and men on one, and having your shoes mugged by some Filipino jester. It is hectic - and yet very productive of all that is essential for a concentrated defense effort.

I will enjoy reading the tales told by those war correspondents after this battle is won - Some of them don't venture far out of the tunnels.

It has been 36 days since the war began - I have private hopes of some semblance of help within the next month - God provides that we hold out no matter how long it may be - We are heavily outnumbered, have very few airplanes, but have an interior resolve and a determination to "take it" if must be, but to "dish it out" in greater quantities than they can take - We don't have any intention of letting them have this place -

Jordan says our outfit is the worlds  
"best" AAA outfit - They are right!!!

JANUARY 17th, 42:-

Well it is about 40 days since the war  
started - we have had one air raid since  
the 6th - that was on the 14th - that day 17 heavies  
came over, all high but the first 9 very high  
(9000 yards) - we of the AA defense shot down  
4 out of the 17 high heavies. Yesterday Globe got  
two of the observation planes (fast pursuit ships  
which swoop around here too damned  
regularly) we call these single ships  
"Snappers" (later called "Photo Joe") and we  
are tickled when they get shot down - Globe  
is a spot where they get lots of targets.  
Globe, therefore, has the highest count in the  
regiment so far - Chicago is second, but we

are being guessed for 2nd place by some  
other outfits -

We have a "bagpipe band" in the outfit - a  
couple of harmonica and a guitar. They produce  
"mountain melodies" and other favorites - any  
tune you can name - you call - "God Bless  
America" is a favorite.

There was an intense battle up north on  
Bataan last night - that is, if artillery action  
is any sign - we heard heavy and light artillery  
nearly all night - our own heavy stuff did  
plenty of "talkin'" - our lighter stuff "barrelled"  
plenty loud too - I hope the boys got a good dose -

We have been told that "help is on the way";  
that we are now in the "last line of trenches";  
that "help will have to fight it way to us", and  
that by determined resistance we can win  
out - all this we know - and fight to the bitter

on glances, and we will.

January 20, 1962:-

passed over six weeks of war so far. For the last ten weeks we have been left pretty much alone - Why, we still don't know. The USAFFE on Luzon is fighting a gallant fight. We hear their artillery booming, but we hear only a trickle of news as to their fighting. They have lost no ground so far. The PA is coming into its own now as a fighting unit. There was a lot of plain cowardly running among the PA men and pieces for awhile. Since the move into Botocan, however, this has apparently been halted. The salvation of the PL in many respects depends on these Filipinos standing fast. On Camindac we are nearly all Americans, and have all American officers - except for

a recently arrived sprinkling of PA officers - This place is ready for anything.

Some days ago I spoke of one man who had "broken" under the strain of war. Well, he is fairly OK now, but since then we have had another who completely lost his nerve. His was a pitiful - some men just a disgusting case - He started out by meditating upon the fact that when we shot down some Jap planes that we had "killed somebody". We tried to humor him out of that, but without success. After some hours had fallen nearly he broke. He climbed into a hole one day and went "they're after me" - "Look out! They'll get you - stand like there like that" - Had to take him to the hospital - on a trip down there for other reasons - but they couldn't help him - He came back in a few days, but we had to get him transferred

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: AFD 833078

He had completely lost his nerve. The rest of the men are holding up very well. I am proud of them.

I haven't told you about our AA fire yet. For one, we are on Corsica, and that is what the logs are bombing when they come this way - that means that we are a part of what is being bombed. Some thousand or more bombs of 100 to 1000 lb. size have hit the island so far. Very few hit anything except earth, roads, and houses. A large number of non-military buildings such as garages (tin sheds), official quarters, and vacated frame structures have been hit and burned. Well, as for our part -

Naturally, our job is to fire on the bombers when they come over to bomb, and if possible, prevent the bombing. Fire we do, but prevent the bombing we cannot. Reason: - Our guns

don't shoot high enough - and far enough out at the same time - to hit the planes before they drop their bombs - not when they fly above 17,000 feet. We have fired only twice at planes below 21,000 feet and have frequently fired on planes at 25,000 feet.

The bombers come over; we see them drop their bombs - all the while we are "tracking them" with our instruments - our guns point upward more and more steeply; the bombs continue downward on their way toward us; then our indicators show that the bombers are "in range" - We open fire; in about 15 seconds our guns are pointing as nearly straight up as they can - they hit the mechanical "stop" - We cease firing; the bombs whistle; we "duck" for a few seconds while the bombs hit and burst and pop up

again to engage the next flight - when flights come in one after another (as they usually do) we stay up, and continue firing, while the bombs hit all around us. So far only two men have been ever so slightly nicked by flying fragments.

Some of the bombers come in higher than we can shoot. In such cases we vainly wait for our indicators to show "in range", and "take cover" (duck behind an splinterproof) just as the bombs begin to whistle.

One day (Jan. 6th) we had a flight go over us out of range - too high - we "took cover" and popped up to engage another flight at 7800 yards altitude just behind the previous one. We waited a long time after the bombs had been dropped before our guns could "open up" but we landed one high explosion

shell (TNT) in the front rock of the landing plane. He evidently intended to make another trip over us because he had some bombs in his rack. We set them off with one shell. He blew up in mid-air, and demolished the plane on either side of him as well. We got three for one that time. Everyone was elated.

Antiaircraft batteries are, according to the best doctrine, located in rings or lines around the defended area. This makes it much easier for the BH, because they aim on the target where the bombs fall, and can hope to break up the bomber attack before the bombs can be dropped so as to hit in the defended areas. Our Command that doctrine cannot be followed because we are surrounded by water. Hence we are set up on the bomber objective itself, and we get the "eggs" (men at Chicago call

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority A11/D 883078

them "SEEDS") just like the rest of the island. There is very great optimism here now. It is really fact that help is fairly near. I think so myself, but I don't let on too much. I don't want any future hopes to be dashed. And, after all, the Japs still control the seas to our southward. At the present rate we can hold out indefinitely. Pat's hope that Uncle Sam does a thorough job to our southward while he is at it. What we need most is planes. With a bunch of fighters and a few bombers we could make the Japs "jell freight".

The Japs drop the funniest kind of bombs. Some are filled with concrete; some with old belts, nails and rivets; some have scraps of iron (Model T's and Singer sewing machine), and lead fill. Some bombs are made of pipe,

some of riveted metal, some of welded metal, some with crimped seams; just figure out a way to make a cylinder of metal out of a bunch of metal scraps, and that's the way the Japs do it! For explosives they use TNT (not much available to them it seems), dynamite, ammonium picrate.

About 5% or 10% of their bombs are duds. Sometimes quite a few in one batch and none in another. I hope it is a dud that has my name on it! Don't worry though. I am as safe as anyone in a war could be and still be a fighting soldier. I don't want to be elsewhere when my men and my country are fighting. Someday, sometime, I'll be back home with all the whistles of bombs. I don't let anyone tell you that you cannot hear them coming.

You sure as hell can! (an 1100 ft. bomb from 20,000 feet travel about 900 feet per second when it hit - sound travels about 1100 feet per second at all times; so the whistle does get ahead - by about 200 feet per second) They whistle like a muzzled "blow-out" of an automobile tire - prolonged - They also sound something like a Greyhound bus rattling on its air hoses - in a cascade of whistles followed by a great "clap!" of an explosion and a hint of an earthquake.

#### MORE SIDELIGHTS:

Since the Japs have occupied Manila and reconnected the radio stations we have enjoyed nearly five programs of music - There has not been a

Tagalog song played to my knowledge, since they took over the city - Apparently the Japs like American music as well as we do - in other words they have nothing else to play - besides the albums of classical music, of sentimental melodies, of good old American jazz, etc., sprinkled with opera, operetta, Spanish music, is amazing - About one half hour a day is devoted to propaganda - very poorly presented - Faded stories supposedly told by captured American and Filipinos who have "seen the light".

It occasionally a Filipino comes through the lines from Manila - Col. Bais' boy did - He brought word that the Col's wife and baby were doing all right, except that food is very scarce - That that is available (and that is very little) has to be brought on the ship from Boston - The American are, apparently, fairly



were treated - No stories of indignities  
or atrocities yet.

The tunnel disease was a problem given  
great attention here during peace time - World  
since war started very few, if any, soldiers  
(Americans) have been able to get close to  
a woman of any type - Let alone go with  
one for sexual intercourse. The Filipino  
troops never have been much of a venereal  
disease problem, even if they wanted to,  
naturally our "venereal rate" is very very  
low - completely negligible. Certain officers  
among the USARFF are actually gallip  
themselves on the back because of the all  
time low venereal rate for a force of  
this size - a complete loss of perspective  
at the troops who have to fight - They'd rather  
have a disdain for those who stick close

to their tunnels. These same troops note  
very quickly the presence of persons who have  
"gotten out" - and also the frequency of such  
trips out to "see the troops".

There are said to be 35 generals in our  
Shalinta tunnel. I don't vouch for the number  
but there are plenty. Some have little or  
nothing to command. There are, of course,  
only a few - One general hasn't been out  
of the tunnel for a month or more except to  
get his thunder bottles filled - so the story  
goes. The fighting soldiers in the field do not  
think highly of such tunnelites.

There are exceptions to the "tunnelites".  
None of course - They stand out. Many of the  
oldsters, colonels, etc., are actually scared  
stiff - I know some young fellows - never  
noted for their courage or ability who are

they get in and did something - In some localities the "higher-ups" still don't know that their subordinate units, their outlying squads, sections, and platoons are swapping information with the Air Corps, Field Artillery, Navy, Marine etc. - In defense of an area such as Bataan it is essential that all agencies concerned know of the threats in the air, along the beaches, from the sea, etc. - And these subordinate commanders - while their "higher-ups" signed war plans, maps, gasolins all over the place, boards of officers, etc. - have installed the necessary cooperative measures and provided the means whereby the enemy may be defeated now - not next month when the soldiers have finally come to a paper agreement in a tunnel.

They have painted a somewhat black

picture of the "Tumalans" - I don't mean to condemn them all - not by far. Those that don't belong out doing raids, should stay in. But those that command field and fighting soldiers should know what goes on among their troops before they presume to undestand and command those same troops. A trip once in a while will do it. No trips at all will result in a complete loss of perspective.

It seems that a cavalry troop commanded by Prager, class of '38 or '39, USMA, is now fighting up in the mountain provinces. They were cut off at Uigan, it seems, and are now raising hell - the mountains - those games to them.

January 24, 42

Well, a few more days have passed -

We have had no good news - we had ones  
rather - Some people have tried to start a few  
but without success - It now seems to me that  
the Singapore struggle is the key to the whole present  
situation - The Japs are quite obviously making a  
major effort there - another key is the Dutch East  
Indies - Japan has many troops in the P.I., about  
200,000, but here the air activity has greatly  
diminished - "Dive bombers", about 15 troops,  
almost continually harass our front lines  
on Luzon - It speaks wonders for the troops here  
that they have withstood Japanese thrusts so  
successfully - It is nearly seven weeks now - We  
are almost ready to believe the Japs don't want  
to fly over Causidior - not for a while anyhow -  
We did punish them severely for awhile, and  
they don't seem to hold their "naive" well when  
determinedly opposed. There was a flight

of 5 heavy bombers over here today - they  
stayed strictly out of range of us - Causidior and  
bombed Maniwales. They are the same type planes  
of which we knocked down three last week -  
Apparently they are based on Luzon now because  
they have been around the Manila Bay area  
at 4:00 P.M. a couple of times - That is the latest  
any Jap "beavies" have been around yet - they  
seem to be daytime flyers.

Captain Dick Gray came back from his outpost  
duty. He had some interesting tales to tell. It  
seems the Japs have only occupied the larger  
villages and communication nets - a bunch  
of guerrillas could work havoc with them. I'd  
sure like to see a bunch of guerrillas in action  
in a lot of places I can mention - There are  
some things I'd better not put on paper yet!  
Things we will say it though - word first only

were news than later - How goes: -

I Few, if any, of the local generals in command of the parts of this campaign concerned know the situation in the Quito-Batangas areas leading on Pico de las Paights - the general's bloody attitude was "Humph!" "Look at the country, no roads, high mountain, jungles - It would take the boys six months to get in there!" "Practically none of them know that there was a sugar cane railroad up into the area - to a point very near Fort Frank and overlooking it. They would not believe Capt. Long's reports of boys' artillery going in at Tumbato and Nais - they said: "Did you see the guns?" Dick had to confess he had not, but said trustworthily Filipinos would lead over them - The brass put them said - "I don't believe it. I've sent a mosquito boat past there (at 40 mi) - all it

shows was machine gun fire!" Dick told them he still thought artillery was going in - He said he thought guerrillas could work well over there and would prevent the boys from taking the Paights - The brass put said - "but the region is in range of our big guns!" (It is, but we have practically no means of spotting our own fire unless we hold those Paights - and there is lots of defilade from which the boys could fire. All this is important later)

The boys have (WED) broadcasting on the short wave band daily. They favor us with a day long program of American music from swing through "sentimental jigs" to classics - No advertising at all - a few times a day they broadcast what they claim are the statements of captured Americans and Filipinos - We of the WAFPE have our own radio station

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority AFD 83978

It is (according to station announcement) located "somewhere in the Philippines" and gives us hopeful news and confidence-boosting propaganda for the troops and civilians Filipinos. An station is called the "Voice of Freedom" and is located in Malinta Tunnel.

From CAPT. AMES' DIARY:- "We read with avid interest our own daily newspaper, the "Morrison Hill Gazette", which is put out by Sgt. Hopkins. It is quite cleverly done - Our "Gazette" is about 12 to 16 pages ahead of the USAFFE newspaper."

Just before the war took on its local phase - that is just before Dec. 28th, I bought a big RCA radio - It has been a God send. When we don't have "jost power", we use power tapped off our AA power plants - use them about 1 1/2 hrs. per day for radio purposes - In spite of the Japanese attempts to "black out" the

interference, we get good programs.

Of course the men are all interested in when the "TNT" (Trouble and Turmoil) forces will arrive from the US - I can't say I don't wish to feel it would get here, but I must say I still think it too early to expect it - It seems apparent to me that Singapore must be saved, but the Dutch East Indies must also be rendered reasonably secure. Our papers we can expect a division of strength arriving from the US so as to provide help and relief for us - I don't expect such help before June or July (at the earliest). That is a long wait, but the baton passes, and we on the "Rock" intend to be here fighting Japs of long after that, if necessary.

We are digging ourselves a tunnel don't know what we will use it for - We have to be quiet ready at our guns all the time, so we

may not be able to spend too much time, if any at all, in a tunnel. However we have an endless amount of material we could store there; Nam's foot lockers, ammunition, extra foodstuffs, delicate reserve instruments, etc. - Then it is quite conceivable that a situation may arise when it would be proper for us to take cover - at such a time a tunnel would be invaluable. Then too, it will fit into future underground plans very well.

JANUARY 27, 1942

Another month almost gone by. The time is passing in Bataan is passing strongly. There have been violent battles in which the Japs have attempted to break through. They first tried the road on the east coast - that was bloody and costly for them. They failed

miserably to penetrate. Then they shifted to the west (China Sea side) and have been hitting there heavily for days now. They had a little success one day but have since been forced to disengage. They have tried landing small parties of soldiers on the shoreline south of our front lines - some fifty or so got ashore our warning. They have since been picked up according to latest reports. Last night they tried to land heavy forces behind our lines along the shore just above Marinalta Harbor - a battery on Corregidor blew them all to Japanese hell!

The Japs are found to have some success now and then, but they are having a rugged time of it. To date our lines are as strong - stronger when combat experience of the troops is considered - as they were when first we moved into Bataan. We have a grandstand seat here on Corregidor.

We watch the P-40's take off from Cebu and  
 to engage the Japs (the Air Corps call them "Nips").  
 We see the dogfight - We see Japs hit the dust  
 (on the east water) and, once in a long while, we  
 see a P-40 go down - So far we've only seen  
 his once - He was one of four that went up to  
 get some "Nips" - They got 2 of 4 "Nips" when 12 more  
 swooped down on this one P-40 and shot him  
 down - The pilot took to the air in his parachute,  
 and was shot in the air by the Japs - The chute  
 he took in the air ruined his chute and he fell  
 too fast without the benefit of it - being killed  
 upon impact -

I suggest the Japs are going to try a heavy  
 combined naval, air and land attack on the  
 China Sea Shore of Batan just south of where  
 our matters can reach - We have heavy artillery  
 which can reach up (the coast) to where the

Field Artillery (actually, CAC units from  
 here on FA duties) guns can fire by pointing  
 this way - This heavy stuff, however, has a "flat"  
 trajectory (path of the projectile flight) - Hence it  
 cannot reach down into some of the small  
 caves along the coastlines - because of the  
 lofty headlands on each side which prevent  
 flat trajectory weapons from reaching over  
 and down into the caves past the headland -

In case of such an attack it will be up  
 to the <sup>flat trajectory</sup> ~~FA~~ artillery to get the warships - they  
 can do it - It is up to the 155's here and on Batan  
 to get the transports - It's up to the 75's on the  
 beaches to get to the boats - And it's up to the  
 infantry (marines, air corps, naval air corps,  
 everything including Filipinos) to get the  
 troops which land - Tanks can't land - not in  
 any numbers - for the terrain is rugged.

fuel of mountain, cliffs, and jungle. Next it is up to the P-40s and B-24s to get the planes. It will be tough, but I don't think — I know the Japs won't succeed!

If they should take Rota, we on Corregidor could make life very unhappy for them. Our artillery could blast them without end. They would have to bomb this island for months on end to reduce the strength of ourment to a state where the Japs would not be say-ably outweighed. They have already bombed us considerably. They have done — this is the honest truth — practically no military damage at all. True they disrupted water distribution, electricity and street car service. They burned down a lot of officers' quarters and vocational "huts" warehouses. They rock-marked a few roads (which are all steel runways) — but

they have damaged practically nothing of fighting strength. What they did hurt was repaired almost at once — and the most they had out of action at one time was one B-24 gun out of 36 or more. The aircraft guns have not been hurt either. One ad battery (not in active condition) was hit, but can still be reactivated. A few communication cables were cut, they were replaced practically at once by effective temporary and then new permanent installation.

I won't say that this place can't be taken (that would be a rash statement). I do say that the price is more than the Japs would believe, and if they try they'll pay a damned sight more heavily than they were promised.

The look of the island are sure modified. This is more by our action, I believe, than by bombs. All houses have been torn down.



All but San Jose Basin were torn down before the war - San Jose is being torn down by our local outlaws now. Only a few buildings are left, a couple of churches, the BLS P.x., the "Canguide" Bogasi Bldg., the bank shops, and some mine storehouses - All the nipa and wrey shacks were torn down - The method of demolition was simple: - a rope was passed around several shacks, tied to a tractor, and the tractor then started off - Down came the nipa shacks, legs and lower floor pulled out from under them - Then came firwood gattans and next the official touch-beaner (Capt Fred Miller and his cohorts - Supts Smith and Walker and J. Quinn) when this crew is finished the basin is no more -

A couple of funny (near tragic) incidents took place today. A P-40 took off from

Coloban field and flew this way - Some naval mine sweepers, taken off guard, along with our mine planter and some machine gun squads opened up on it - The plane dodged, thank God! One of our 60th CA MG squads, having been warned not to fire, had some other MG's nearby firing (a Filipino battery of "Sea Coasters") at the P-40 - The former threw rocks at the latter - The latter stopped firing and, having what their war had been, began to throw rocks at a third position (manned by Marine on beach Defend) which had originally opened fire - The Marine didn't care for the rocks - The P-40 escaped OK though. I saw it return to its base about 45 minutes later -

It is not too easy to tell the nationality of a plane when it comes upon you at low altitude and suddenly - Besides, the Japs have

almost complete air superiority here and it is only once in a while that our few P-40's can get in a punch without risking leaving their landing field bombed while they are up (and they only have the one field) IF: one good field - they have several temporary fields. This field has been bombed as many as 7 times in one day - and was ready in not more than 1 1/4 hours after each bombing for our P-40's to use. The Air Corps has built a false runway and a long extension on their real one. The extension goes over far up into the jungle. The underneath trees 50 to 75 feet apart but so numerous that their branches could be seen a protective curtain - The planes are towed up there and put into camouflage sand bagged emplacements. The "Nips" come over and bomb the false runway and the lower part of the

real one - When the "Nips" leave, the "bull dogs" (tractors with scrapers on their noses) come out and soon the field is good as new.

JANUARY 29, 1942

Well, another calendar month almost gone by. No more bombing here yet - there has been some diving bombing over Batavia - Okaviden, Cabesdan, etc., in the last two days but nothing here.

Our forces on Batavia have apparently withdrawn their fronts so as to put their fronts down under Cassigidos guns - This is my theory or analysis based on what I've noted. Big gun from Cassigidos have been working on isolated Jap contingents which tried landing behind our front lines on Batavia. The Jap land, got pushed out on a finger of land by Marins.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: ND 883078

Naval Air Corps, Philippines, AA Searchlight Crews, Field Artillery, etc. and then the artillery from front and from between "now in down"! then artillery from the "back" drops high angle fire (12 in. mortar firing 700 lb shells with a 600 lb TNT charge) on them with point detonating fuses. The result is what amounts to bombing just like from planes. The Japanese don't like it!!!

There was a cruiser - identity unknown (I firmly believe it to be Japanese) off the western coast in the China Sea this AM. I saw it through a telescope in our CP. I did not come within range of our searchlight guns - I have no doubt yet as to whether it fired on anyone - it was attacked by a couple of planes and was not attacked by Japanese dive bombers. In addition, our P-40's were landed on the ground by top gunshots up over their field all morning -

Some people will have it that the cruiser is friendly, but I have yet to be convinced that it is not Japanese -

The P-40's pulled a sneak bombing raid on Manila (air fields in that vicinity) and upon a few more areas, Clark Field, etc., the other night (48 hrs. ago). It seems that they have been fitted up to carry 4-100 lb bombs or 1-500 lb bomb. The Japs rave about the bombing of the "Open City of Manila" - Open, hell! It's full of top troops and equipment and in addition has AA guns which we saw firing on the P-40's from front. What's more, according to my understanding of International Law only a capital city can be declared open - Manila isn't the capital of Japan. At any rate, more thanks to the P-40's! The bravery of their attack has thinned us no end, and probably, boosted the morale

of the Filipinos and American under dog control - And I presume it damaged or destroyed some Jap planes too - Manila has been showing all its lights for weeks - war since about January 5th - It is blacked out every night now.

Jan 30th -

Another day - not much real news - The Malacca Strait battle is encouraging - It seems that really effective reinforcements are arriving in the S.W. Pacific area - Singapore, although admittedly in desperate danger, seems now to be in such shape as to be safe in the long run - And every day the strength of allied anti-axis forces increases.

We are fighting a war of time out here. We in the P.I. realize that we are only a minor part of the whole action, but we regard our job

as the most important we can ever do towards winning this war - The reason? Well, if we can hold out - we will - until help can fight through the Japs around us, then we will be riding the wave towards victory on a boat already tumbled towards victory - In such a victorious drive we would have a fighting part, no doubt, but we would be a part of a huge force and our part would be relatively unimportant in view of the huge mass with which we moved - In the grunt struggle we are faced with overwhelming odds by which we refuse to be overwhelmed - By winning out in this campaign we - as isolated individuals - can do more for final victory than we would ever have a chance to do again - We would, and will, have justified our existence as soldiers in the cause of freedom even if we never afterwards fired a single shot.

FEBRUARY 2, 42 -

Another colander moved and a complete sight usually of war - The situation is comparatively quiet here - The lines in between are holding quite well - In fact the Japs have been unable to penetrate at all and we have cleaned out their attempt at encircling our left flank by landing parties.

Capt Quirk has been injured a second time - The first time he was hit by flying steel fragments from his own guns - a close call - The second time he was directly a heel-dogger which was building a road for his new gun position - The heel-dogger hooked down a tree which hit Jack and pinned him to the ground - It was night-time and before anyone knew what had happened the heel-dogger scaper blade had cut Jack seriously about the head. His jawbone was broken and several teeth

gauged out - His "juggler" vein was just missed - he is lucky to be alive! Capt Quirk is now in a Bataan hospital and is doing very well -

About those Jap landing forces: - They are very well equipped - Their machine guns are good - One type is light enough to be carried on one man's shoulders and may be fired by another man while in that position - It may also be emplaced on the ground in a couple of seconds and fired from there - They have a 0.25 inch (25 caliber) rifle and an automatic rifle very similar to ours - This latter is a Browning automatic rifle produced in Belgium - Its caliber is about 0.302 inches -

They have astonishingly complete individual equipment - I have seen all of what I suspect - There are some of the items they carry along

with them:-

- ① GAS MASK:- Very similar to our latest rubber facemask type with an excellent canister (chemical filter) very much like ours.
- ② HELMET:- Steel, somewhat like Nazi type - no spikes on it and no ridges. It covers and protects the neck better than ours. This helmet is sometimes worn with a covering of a canvas (or denim) field hat on it - The field hat may be worn by itself - when worn on the helmet it acts as a sun shade.
- ③ FOOD SUPPLIES:- Very compact compressed foods:- rice cakes, fish cakes, vitamin and energy tablets. Some wrapped in paper, some in small tin cans ("Et her" or sigs), and some in bottles about the size of a 25¢ Aspirin bottle. All this is very compact and would fit in a shirt pocket.
- ④ ENTRENCHING TOOLS:- A shovel very much like

ours, which may be "up-ended" and used as a face shield while the soldier pees through a couple of small holes conveniently drilled in the shovel blade.

- ⑤ WATER PURIFYING APPARATUS:- A very ingenious sort of device. It consists of a three-foot-long rubber tube with a kabalite (or other plastic) strainer-cap on the end. The strainer has a removable screw cap on it, behind which can be placed wads of cotton soaked in water purification chemicals. From a small can - smaller than a cake of Lux toilet soap - the soldier gets his cotton and chemicals better in small vials. He maintains one wad of cotton with one of the two types of chemicals and a second wad with the other type. He inserts the wads into the strainer, one wad well up into the neck (near where the rubber tube is attached), and places the other in the lower end of the strainer.

Then he replaces the cog on the fabricate strainer and drops the strainer into a stream or other water source. He drinks by sucking on the upper end of the rubber tube - remote from the strainer. The water passes through the two chemical-soaked wads of cotton. The first wad serves to purify the water. The second serves to remove the unpleasant taste produced by the first chemical. (Our doctors say this isn't very satisfactory water purification because the water isn't exposed to the chemical long enough. In addition, the amoeba, which causes amoebic dysentery, isn't killed by chemicals of this type. At any rate, the device is more than our own soldiers have).

④ CAMOUFLAGE NETS: - Each man has his own - about a meter square, and woven of green and "forest-colored" "fuzzy" strings. Very effective.

① KIT BAG: - A small sturdy cut bag, about the size of a 25 lb. paper bag. Easily rolled up. It can be used as a network <sup>conduit</sup> for camouflaging the pack.

② FIELD BAG: - This is shoulder carried. It is about 1 ft. by 1 ft. by 4 in. deep. It has a fold-over lid and a shoulder harness. It is made of canvas. It is coated on the "shoulder-blade-side" with the hairy hide of a cow, horse or dog - the idea being comfort - I suppose.

Only snipers and special task forces with a mission to have their excellent modern equipment. However, all Jap troops around here seem to be excellently equipped, very well trained, and very determined. Some have been in the army since 1937. The stories we have been told about the Jap "air" dolls, poorly trained, poorly equipped, and driven to war, etc., are all bunk!

774

In fact, these stories may be said to have been an effective form of propaganda. They were effective enough to lead the USA into a deepening attitude of contempt for Japanese military strength. Hence our lack of military strength out here in P.I. What we are doing is being done with equipment and supplies for long years judiciously allowed by Washington. Only in the last month of 1941 did modern equipment begin to arrive - and all of that did not get here by far. Two months more and we'd have been much better off - The Japs know it!

But, we're still here, and we intend to stay! The Japs are now besieging Singapore. Today they landed planes in Manila (not the first time, of course) - We may be in for some night attacks soon - And we may be in for some "street-car" type bombing (back and forth from

Manila) - We are as ready as we ever will be - Don't get me wrong - We don't like bombs, never did! We don't want to die, never did! But we do intend to keep the Japs from Cavazigal. If it means death - well then I guess that must be - but we are not resigned to death. We are determined to fight to victory and to blow the "TNT" into Manila Bay -

SIDE LIGHTS (From Capt. Amos' diary) -

"The 'USSAFFE' as we call the news - don't put out by the HQ comes to us over the phone at night, and now and then we get copies of it through the messenger service. Delivery became more frequent as time went on. Then the 'Voices of Freedom' began broadcasting the same news. Now we get as much news as is allowed out. We have our own 'Gazette' - It is a stellar publication, more and more it becomes an



integral part of our daily life - Cartoons, jokes, as well as news 12 to 13 hours in a volume of the USAFFE are some of its features."

With reference to the landings on the Chinese coast of Hataan - How are the USAFFE gears relaxing on these landings

#### HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

PRESS RELATIONS SECTION

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SUMMARY

No. 39

FEBRUARY 2, 1942/CBN

PHILIPPINES: HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST, 9:00 A.M., PRESS RELEASE:- BY ORDER OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL NARA, FRONTAL ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED BY THE 16TH AND 65TH JAPANESE DIVISIONS JANUARY 30-31 ON OUR EAST AND WEST SECTIONS - THESE ATTACKS WERE MUTUALLY COORDINATED AND TIMED WITH

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority AN D 833078

DESPERATE THRUSTS BY PICKED GROUPS AGAINST THE WEST COAST AIMED AT WHAT THEY MISTAKENLY THOUGHT TO BE OUR FLANK AND REAR - A PICKED GROUP KNOWN AS THE TATORI UNIT EXECUTED THESE THRUSTS ALONG THE WEST COAST LIKE THE FINGERS OF A CLAWING HAND - CAPTURED AERIAL MAPS SHOW THE JAPANESE PLAN AND THE URGENT CHARACTER OF THEIR MISSION - THEY FAILED - THERE WAS SAVAGE FIGHTING IN THE UNDER BRUSH - OUR INFANTRY SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE FORCED THE INVADERS BACK TO THE COAST - THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED FIGHT BY SEA WERE DROWNED; THE REST DESTROYED OR CAPTURED - IN THE EAST SECTOR THE JAPANESE 65TH DIVISION ATTEMPTED A FRONTAL ATTACK IN THE PLAN AREA WITH THE 142ND INFANTRY AND A SIMULTANEOUS ENVELOPEMENT BY THE 141ST AND 122ND INFANTRY - THE ENVELOPEMENT BLOODILY FAILED - THE FRONTAL ATTACK HARDLY MOVED BEFORE STOPPING -

This is the first USAFFE report to depict the real nature of Jap envelopment attempts along the

I.I. - B. Q. Hopkins (1 of 2)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority ARM D 533078

Folios 7

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority: E.O. 13526