

PROJECT 010 - S.S. CORREGIDOR  
DISASTER

Date project initiated 26 AUG 57

Date project completed 30 AUG 57

Action recommended APPROVAL

Action taken ACCEPTED - CARDED + FILED 10 JUL 58

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 883078



**CLIPPINGS ON THE**  
**"SS CORREGIDOR"**  
**DISASTER**

**As published in "THE TRIBUNE"**

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120



CLIPPINGS ON THE "SS CORREGIDOR" DISASTER  
as published in "THE TRIBUNE"

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# 280 Rescued In Corregidor Disaster

**Skipper, Notables  
Feared Lost—Known  
Casualties Mount**

Two hundred and eighty survivors have been accounted for in the sinking of the s.s. Corregidor, one of the greatest disasters in the Philippine maritime history.

Three are known dead and at least 45 are missing. The complete passenger list was not available, and further developments are likely to indicate that the casualty list will be larger than 50.

An unknown number of soldiers and trainees were reported to have been aboard. One survivor said that several American army officers were among those who went down in the Corregidor.

Sailing from Manila Bay for southern ports under blackout condition, the s.s. Corregidor, which had for sometime been in service as an army troopship, struck a mine in minefields off Corregidor at approximately 12:30 a.m. yesterday and slid under water in less than ten minutes.

(Continued on page 6)



Survivors of the Corregidor nursing injuries filled city emergency hospitals yesterday. A nurse (above) is giving emergency treatment to a line of exhausted, injured survivors. This scene was repeated in other emergency hospitals where survivors were taken.

## 280 Rescued In Corregidor Disaster

(Continued from page 1)

Among those missing are ex-Senator Hermenegildo Villanueva, Assemblyman Atanacio Ampig of Iloilo, Assemblyman Juan M. Reyes and Capiz, the wife and two children and sister of Assemblyman Dominador M. Tan of Leyte, and Captain Apolinar M. Calvo, master of the sunken ship.

Shocked by the disaster, which took the lives of many who were his personal friends, President Manuel L. Quezon last night issued the following statement:

"I am shocked to learn of the sinking of the Corregidor. My heart goes out to the members of the families of those who perished in this terrible accident, some of whom were my personal friends who had rendered signal public service to our country and our people."

Among the survivors are Assemblyman Jose Romero (who was seriously injured and is still at Fort Mills under treatment), Assemblyman Dominador Tan, Assemblyman Calixto Zaldivar of Leyte, and Dr. Dominador Laborte, city health officer of Iloilo.

Majority of the passengers of the Corregidor were students and other southern residents evacuating to their home provinces.

Officials of the Compania Maritima said that the Corregidor carried 261 passengers and 65 members of the crew. Whether these figures include soldiers and trainees is not known. It was also reported that a number of people boarded the ship immediately before it sailed and that the company had no record of these late passengers.

Rescue work was carried out for several hours by three Q-boats and by several small ships

of the U.S. Navy patrol and from Fort Mills. Searchlights from the island fortress lighted the area where the "Corregidor" sank, facilitating rescue work.

Most of the survivors were taken to Fort Mills and Mariveles, and were later brought to Manila. One army launch brought 123 survivors to Manila, three of whom were dead. A second launch brought 150, making a total of 273. Medical treatment was given at Red Cross emergency hospitals to 227, the rest being taken by the army or leaving for their homes before they could be listed.

Four are still in Mariveles and six at Fort Mills. These ten, who are the serious cases, have not been identified. One of those at Fort Mills is Assemblyman Romero, who was seriously injured.

Only a few of the survivors were seriously injured. Most of them suffered only from shock, exhaustion, abrasions and minor

contusions.

Although the "Corregidor" was in the military transport service, army authorities had given permission for her to carry civilian passengers on this trip to the south, the first out of Manila since the start of the war.

The Corregidor sailed from Manila at about 10 p.m. last Tuesday. Night departure was facilitated under special arrangements as the restrictions governing passage through the mine field ordinarily prohibit vessels to enter or leave Manila Bay at night.

All passengers, when they bought their tickets, had signed statements accepting the risk of the voyage and releasing the military authorities and the Compania Maritima from responsibility in case of any accident.

Departure was carried out under blackout conditions in view of the danger of enemy raids. All passengers were given lifebelts, and most of them had theirs on at the time of the accident. The ship was crowded. Cots filled the decks. Two persons, in many cases, occupied one cot.

Arriving at the mined area off Corregidor, the Corregidor was met by a navy patrol boat. Captain Calvo, master of the Corregidor, received instructions from the navy patrol ship about the course that he was to



take.

Jose Ramos, chief steward of the Corregidor, who is at the San Juan de Dios Hospital for treatment, related that he was on deck at the time, looking at the mined area through a telescope. He saw a buoy several meters away, this buoy indicating where the minefields end. Suddenly, Ramos related, an officer on the navy patrol ship shouted out to the Corregidor that she was on the wrong course. Officers at the bridge apparently did not hear the warning. A few minutes later the explosion.

The vessel was struck amidship, near the engine room. It was over in a few minutes. The ship listed rapidly to port, and sank stern first. As the waves began to lap the bridge, according to Ramos, he saw the officers on the bridge dive into the sea without lifebelts on. This was the last seen of Captain Calvo and several other officers.

Panic reigned among the passengers when the explosion jarred the ship from stem to stern. Those who were on the upper decks and were wearing their lifebelts were luckiest. They were either thrown into the sea or they jumped into the water. Many of those in their cabins and those below decks were trapped. So swift was the sinking that many could not find their way out. Others were sucked to their death by the whirlpool caused by the sinking ship.

Only a few life rafts could be lowered. While the ship was sinking Captain Calvo gave orders to Arjimiero Vidal, the first officer, and Agripino Sarmiento, the third officer, to lower the lifeboats. The ship sank before the two could lower the boats.

Passengers thrown into the water, with inky darkness all around, trusted to their lifebelts. Others managed to get hold of floating cans and barrels. There were struggles for the few boats that managed to get loose from the ship. Oil leaking from the ship cast a black film on the water, smudging the passengers and making it difficult for those fighting for their lives to breathe.

Rescue came in the form of three Q-boats, one of which chanced upon the scene while it

was on routine patrol. Fort Mills lighted the scene with searchlights, and sent out several boats to carry out rescue work. Rescue work took several hours because of the rough seas.

Official records of the bureau of customs show that the Corregidor was authorized to carry 454 passengers, in addition to 10 officers and 72 members of the crew.

Among the officers missing, besides Captain Calvo, are Rafael Bonanza, first mate; Jose Crespo, chief engineer; Jose Songalong, first assistant engineer; Ramon Suzara, second assistant engineer; Pedro Maten and P. Songal, third assistant engineers; and Doroteo Francisco, radio operator.

Capt. Calvo, a veteran sea master, was among the oldest skippers in point of service in the employ of the Compañia Maritima. He had commanded many boats. Considered among the best sea masters in the country, Capt. Calvo had always been assigned to command flagships of the Maritima fleet. He was in command of the s. s. Cebu when she was the flagship; then s. s. Luzon; and later the Corregidor.

The three dead have not yet been identified. One was apparently that of a member of the crew, another that of a Filipino, and the third that of a British Indian.

One of four district health officers bound for their stations in the south are among those missing. The missing official is Dr. Francisco Velez, city health officer of Cebu. Those saved were Dr. Laborte, city health officer of Iloilo. Dr. Cayetano Fernandez, district health officer of Misamis Occidental, and Dr. Leopoldo Fuentes, district health officer of Surigao.

Among the passengers on the Corregidor were 35 players and coaches of the Cebu and Iloilo basketball teams who were returning home after having been stranded for more than a week in Manila on account of the war. The players arrived in the city on December 7, also on the Corregidor, to take part in the national basketball championship which was to have opened last Sunday, Dec. 14.

According to Dr. Regino R. Ylanan, secretary-treasurer of the PAAF, 22 members of the delegation were known to have been saved, including Dr. Dionisio

Alburo, head of the Cebu delegation, who is at the San Juan de Dios hospital. Twenty of the surviving players are in the Sta. Rita's Hall, while one remained in Corregidor. Sgt. Jose Manalo, head of the Iloilo contingent, was reported missing.

Of a group of 11 university students, all from Cebu, who were traveling together, only one was located. She is Miss Clara Tenchavez, 19-year-old student of education, University of the Philippines. She was taken to the Red Cross emergency hospital No. 2, corner of Herran and Pennsylvania.

Miss Tenchavez, who is a native of Mabaling, Cebu, said the members of her group were sleeping on cots on the lower deck when the explosion occurred. Before she had a chance to reach a life boat, the ship had gone under. Having a life-belt, she was able to float. She was seen by a man clinging to a capsized lifeboat. He reached out to her and drew her to the boat.

Prof. Jose M. Reyes, of the college of law, University of Santo Tomas, was one of the survivors. He said that he was sleeping on a cot on the upper deck at the time of the explosion. He was carried under but managed to swim to the surface. Seeing an oil barrel, he swam to it and hung on until rescue boats came. Rescuers could not see many of those swimming because they were blackened with oil. Reyes had to shout before the rescuers found him.

Prof. Reyes, who is from Capiz, is a brother of Assemblyman Reyes, who is missing.

Besides the three dead the Red Cross accounted for the following, some of whom were allowed to go after treatment:

Red Cross emergency hospital No. 1, 410 Marques de Comillas, 17 survivors; Hospital No. 2, corner of Herran and Pennsylvania, 34 survivors; Hospital No. 3, bureau of customs building, Port Area, 17 survivors; Hospital No. 4, corner Mabini and San Andres, 22 survivors; Hospital No. 6, City Y.M.C.A., 19 survivors; Ateneo de Manila, 74 survivors; San Juan de Dios Hospital, 17 survivors; Philippine General Hospital, six survivors; Philippine Women's University, four survivors. One was taken by Rep. Elisa R. Ochoa and three went home, refusing Red Cross help.



## The Survivors in Manila

### SURVIVORS AT THE ATENEO HOSPITAL

1. Egmidio Dallia—210 Rubi, San Andres Sub
2. Prof. Jose Reyes
3. Guillermo Monteciaro—83 Jalandoni
4. Javier Igasan—Iloilo
5. Florido Concepcion—Calibo, Capiz
6. Federico Pallk—Pasi, Iloilo
7. Te Pate—Sta. Elena
8. Te Pate—Sta. Elena
9. Ricardo Rite—c/o Bureau of Customs, Iloilo
10. Diosdado Villaruz—Police Department, Iloilo
11. Gonzalo Pintasales—Police Department, Iloilo
12. Teodor Motus—Calibo, Capiz
13. Raymundo Ruiz—Capiz, Capiz
14. Narciso Tapia—Dumaguete, Negros Oriental
15. Siux Cabasi—Heacock's, Cebu
16. Leodegario Laguanas—Heacock's, Cebu
17. Crispulo Espinosa—Heacock's, Cebu
18. Francisco Celerio—Heacock's, Cebu
19. Porfilio Esquerio—219 San Nicolas, Manila
20. Carlos Balverde—Cebu

(Continued on page 3)

## The Survivors in Manila

(Continued from page 1)

21. Jose Ranas—Cebu
22. Felizardo Motus—Capiz
23. Margarito Salado—Sto. Rosario
24. Jovito Aranas—Capiz
25. Federico Villanueva—Capiz
26. Jose Gracia—Iloilo
27. Irineo Tigarán—Manila
28. Benito Raca—Cebu
29. Ballalolu, Juanito—Cebu
30. Carreon, Simplicio—Iloilo
31. Orequeta, Robilo—Antique
32. Carastillo, Balbino—Negros Occidental
33. Sanchez, Inigo—Cebu
34. Ascalon, Oscar—Negros Occidental
35. Razon, Cristituto—Cebu
36. Martinez, Restituto—Antique
37. Rodriguez, Ernesto—328 Magallanes
38. Cortes, Pedro—118-C del Rosario, Cebu City
39. Tamparong, E. (atty.)—Cagayan, Oriental Misamis
40. Tamparong, Brick—Cagayan, Oriental Misamis
41. Cabungco, Lope—157 Mabini, Iloilo
42. Kim, Lim—Cotabato, Cotabato
43. Millitar, Nicolas—Calibo, Capiz
44. Tiozon, Ricardo—141 Arquiza, Int.
45. Ocañada, Luis—Basak, San Nicolas, Cebu
46. Torre, Geminiano—1924 Almeda Tionsan, Tondo
47. Lauz, Lazaro—320 Sevilla, Manila
48. Bautista, Jesus—Baesa, Caloocan
49. Pañaño, Maximo—320 Sevilla, Manila
50. Ebo, Gensenciano A.—Malillo, Kalibo, Capiz
51. Delgado, Carlos—521 Barcelona, Manila
52. Villarín, Lucio—Samboan, Cebu
53. Cullamco, Leopoldo—561 Camarines—Nearest relative, Faustina Gullamco, Sta. Cruz, Manila
- X 54. Merto, Cornelio K.—Sailor SS Corregidor—Nearest relative, Venancia Vda. de Merto
55. Rama, Gregorio—Paz St. Tugatog, Malabon
56. Martinez, Carlos P.—175 A. Bonifacio, Mandaluyong, Rizal
57. Andilab, Felipe—Police Department, Iloilo City
58. Manaha, Guillermo—Dumaguete, Oriental Negros
- X 59. Emaa, Antonio—488 Lavezor—Sailor S.S. Corregidor
60. Jamelo, Jose—Bacolod, Negros Occidental
- X 61. Villafria, Domingo (sailor)—S.S. Corregidor from Surigao, Surigao
62. Robles, Tomas—La Paz, Iloilo City
63. Suarez, Alfredo—Police Department, Iloilo
64. Tulang, Ernesto A.—9-B Ermita Beach, Cebu City
65. Lustria, Pedro—Cabllawan, Barotac Nuevo
66. Bagas, Flaviano
- X 67. Salado, Faustino (sailor)—S. S. Corregidor
68. Lora, Juanito—362 Asuncion, San Nicolas
69. Mangat, Marianito—350 Sevilla, San Nicolas—Nearest relative, Pedro Aguirre, 1026 Misericordia
70. Magdaluyo, Eugenio—Onate, Ibañay, Capiz
71. Dulalla, Mariano C.—Bacolod City
72. Pallas, Crispino—933 Velasquez
73. Tapia, Narciso—206 Apello

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**HOSPITAL NO. 1, 410 MARQUES DE COMILLAS**

1. Marcial Damian—1181 Leveriza, Pasay
2. Ng Hoo—631 Rizal Avenue
3. Catalino Klamko—Rizal Memorial Tennis Stadium
4. Ernesto Paries—Rizal Memorial Stadium
5. Eduardo Ledesma—302 A. Mabini
6. Rafaela Garantilla—429 Lamayan, Sta. Ana
7. Isiberto Albiola—Rizal Memorial
8. Filomeno Monticillo—Rizal Memorial
9. Diosdado Ruega—Rizal Memorial
10. Salvador Concepcion—59 Magallanes
11. Uy Tian Seng—Rizal Memorial
12. Dr. Manuel Griño—1200 Vergara, Quiapo
13. Jorge Nativo—Rizal Memorial
14. Ambrosio Abad—Chief of Police—Torres
15. Antolin Alcodia—Rizal Memorial
16. Vicente Tabo Tabo—Cebu
17. Erisbesto Japson—52 Magallanes
18. Felixberto Ong Satco—227 Ongpin
19. Raymundo Dominado—Iloilo
20. Nicanor Villa de Buque—Dumangas, Iloilo
21. Enrique Zamora—Iloilo
22. Sk Young—614 San Marcelino
23. Eufrazio Alducente, Jr.—Manga Ave., Cebu City
24. Ko Fee—Iloilo
25. Benjamin Singson—Cebu
26. Atty. Numeriano Kapangpangan—Carnos, Cebu
27. Enrique Vilory—Clavel and Sevilla
28. Alberto Quisinio—Cebu
29. Celestino Tugut—Bulidnon
30. Benjamin Alendia—Cebu

**HOSPITAL NO. 2 (COR. PENMA. HERRAN)**

1. Jose de Pakahibo—Dumangas, Iloilo c/o Cia. Maritima
2. Eduardo Bernardino—Cebu City
3. Victoria Tenebroso—Cebu, c/o Cia. Maritima
4. Melchor Larrazabal—No. 15 Capitan Ticong, Singalong
5. Olegario Larrezabal—No. 15 Capitan Ticong, Singalong
6. Assemblyman Dominador D. M. Tan—No. 15 Capitan Ticong, Singalong
7. Do Chun—Estancia, Iloilo—1206 Sta. Elena
8. Jose de Jesus—503 Zurbaran—Tacloban, Leyte
9. Roberto Guevarra—914 Misericordia
10. Jose T. Romero—Romblon, Romblon—1131 Pepin
11. Jose Jámelo—Jaro, Iloilo—843 Lepanto
12. Chan Liong—Cagayan, Oriental Misamis—760 Legarda
13. Chio Hai An—Iloilo—516 Nueva
14. Severo Polarca (sailor)—Dumora, Capiz
15. Jesus Siosan (sailor)—51 A. Esnao, Iloilo
16. Antonio Lana (sailor)—578 Perez, Paco
17. Crispino Sakay (mess att.)—Cebu—349 Malabay
18. Vicente Leanora (sailor)—Cebu, Cebu—518 San Nicolas
19. Agripino Sarmiento (3rd off.)—157 Lavanderos
20. Arjimero Vidal (2nd mate)—c/o Dr. Simplicio Cajules, Tanza, Cavite
21. Ventura Villarosa (student)—Surigao, Surigao—1123 O'Donnell
22. Clara Tenchavez (U. P. student)—Cebu, Cebu—c/o Pastor Tenchavez U. P.
23. Socrates Alba (student)—Capiz, Capiz—1908 Kusang Loob, Tayuman
24. Jayme Prias (employee)—Cagayan, Or. Mis. 1462 Pennsylvania
25. Eduardo Bernardino—667 P. O. Box, Manila, Casaje Optical—Ave. Rizal
26. Manuel Villareal (member, KGRC)—Cebu City
27. Ben Zuburi (radio singer)—Cebu City
28. Juan A. Saltrio (musician)—Cebu City
29. Eduardo Y. Tan (employee, Standard Vacuum Oil)—Cebu City
30. Benjamin Dingoong (student)—Iloilo City
31. Sulpicio Bediones (student)—Panay, Capiz
32. Nicolas Garzon (student)—Guimbal, Iloilo
33. Cleto Villanueva (student)—Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo
34. Arturo Golez—Cadiz, Negros Occidental
35. Assemblyman C. O. Zaldivar—Army Post Exchange, Tel. 2-67-01, 67 Andrea Vitan, Sampaloc

**HOSPITAL NO. 3, PORT AREA, BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**

1. Escanillas, Constantino—409 Muelle de la Industria
2. Banientos Leonardo—409 Muelle de la Industria
3. Rubi, Pablo—237 San Rafael
4. Banientos, Dionisio A.—409 Muelle de la Industria

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5. Cleofe, Federico—Lupit Batan, Capiz
6. Ravaria, Josue—Lakandula Street, St. Mary Pharmacy, Cebu
7. Palino, Teodorico—Iloilo
8. Demandante, Fundador—1033 Kusang-Loob
9. Velasco, Alfredo—15 San Gabriel, Binondo
10. Seng, Ong—Iloilo
11. Juantong, Luis—Iloilo, Iloilo
12. Castro, Jose—86 A. Bonifacio
13. Dianko, Arturo—211 Nebraska
14. Lactapon, Ruben—310 L. Guerrero
15. Sestoso, Jose—441 Raon
16. Villaruz, Isidro—211 Nebraska

**PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL**

1. Chiong, Cristina
2. Salas Reyes, Carmen
3. Arisala, Domiciana
4. Fernandez, Senorosa
5. Montejo, Filomena, Jr.
6. Collames, Leopoldo (went home)

**HOSPITAL NO. 4—MABINI, SAN ANDRES**

1. Ibañez, Geronimo—Cebu, Cebu—Nearest relative, Marcelo Ibañez
  2. Prada, Pedro—Capiz
  3. Villegas, Bernabe—Iloilo
  4. Atienza, Rafael—Iloilo
  5. Robles, Mana Ceña—Jaro, Iloilo
  6. Mendoza, Lucides—Palawan
  7. Gatchece, Liberato—Capiz
  8. Jardonel, Fabiana—Iloilo
  9. Mr. and Mrs. E. P. J. Fee—Standard Vacuum Oil Co.
  10. Agose, Feliciano—Mambulao, Misamis Oriental
  11. Alcantara, Nicolas—Mambulao, Misamis Oriental
  12. Lunbud, Fred—Bugo, Misamis Oriental
  13. Llan, Suy Siong—Standard Vacuum Oil Co.
  14. Bacalso, Dulce—Cebu City
  15. Divinagracia, Jose V. (Atty.)—Iloilo City
  16. Roseta, Herman—Aparri
  17. Ladines, Fillemon L. (Lt.)—Novaliches, Rizal—c/o Mr. Raymundo
  18. Jayme, Leonor—Jaro, Iloilo
  19. Ardoza, Pedro, Sr.—Victoria, Occidental Negros
  20. Ardoza, Pedro, Jr.—Victorias, Occidental Negros
  21. Fermin, Rolando—Victorias, Occidental Negros
  22. Muscal, Agustin—Victorias, Occidental Negros
- Taken by Rep. elect. Elisa R. Ochoa—Miss Rita Manay (nurse)

**S. S. CORREGIDOR CREW**

1. Contreras (telegraph operator)
2. Villaruel (steward)
3. Dimas Barrios—went to his mother, Malabon

**HOSPITAL NO. 6—CITY Y.M.C.A.**

1. Go Eng Ching—31 Pasaje, Iloilo
2. Rafael Ruiz (student)—Negros Occidental
3. Antonio Tujan (student)—Cebu
4. Juan Cell (cabin boy)—San Joaquin, Iloilo
5. Conrado Cipriano (cabin boy)—Calibo, Capiz
6. Eliseo Ong Satco (student)—Iloilo
7. Emerald Resterio
8. Benjamin Ambrosio—508 Madrid, San Nicolas
9. Gregorio Alcizo
10. Juan Vito—1227 Lealtad, Sampaloc
11. Manuel Salvador (seaman)
12. Juan Salazar—219 Rubi, San Andres Extension
13. Dionisio Briones—308 San Nicolas
14. Tiburcio Barredo—303 Alabastro, San Andres Sub.
15. Dr. N. Laborte (District H. O.)—Iloilo
16. Mario Alonso—933 Bambang, Sta. Cruz
17. Dominador de Ocampo
18. Anemias Ambrosio—15 Penaglabonan, San Juan del Monte
19. Jose Salazar—716 Asuncion

**PHIL. WOMENS UNIVERSITY c/o MISS BENITEZ**

1. Adelaida Pages
2. Emma Ledesma
3. Mrs. Estela Villanueva and Florencia (maid)

**SAN JUAN DE DIOS HOSPITAL**

1. Manuel Susi—516 A. Mabini, Ermita
2. Diana Gayoso—31 Shaw Boulevard
3. Dominador Rodriguez—17 Donada, Rasay
4. Mrs. Luna—Bambang, Misericordia
5. Carlito Luna—Bambang, Misericordia
6. Rosario de Vera—Mandaluyong
7. Terste Solidad—2141 Azcarraga
8. Mr. and Mrs. R. Alce—c/o Heacock Co., Manila
9. Jose Unzay—220 Sta. Cruz, Manila
10. Ernesto Venturanza—New Washington, Capiz
11. Diosdado Rosary—Cebu
12. Pablo Sangala (student)
13. Yuco Seng—Chinese
14. Dionisio Albano—San Juan de Dios, Cebu—Dr. De la Rosa of San Juan de Dios, nearest relative
15. George Cambuco—Cebu City
16. Sergio Llamado—Cebu City
17. Antonio Baz—Cebu City—These people will go to Memorial School after eye treatments.

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## The Missing Known So Far

Among the missing in the Corregidor disaster are the following passengers:

1. Ex-Senator Hermenegildo Villanueva, of Negros Oriental;
  2. Assemblyman Juan M. Reyes, 3rd district, Capiz;
  3. Assemblyman Atanacio Ampig, 3rd district, Iloilo;
  4. Mrs. Dominador M. Tan (wife of Assemblyman Dominador M. Tan of Leyte) and her children;
  5. Dominador, Jr., 10 and
  6. Ana Maria, 9.
  7. Milagros Tan, 28, sister of Assemblyman Tan;
  8. Serapion Torre, editor of "Oton," a Visayan magazine;
  9. Captain Apollinar Calvo, master of the Corregidor;
  10. Rafael Bonanza, first officer;
  11. Edgardo Arnaldo, son of Assemblyman Ramon Arnaldo of Capiz;
  12. Leonor Claveria, student;
  13. Beatriz Alcantara, student;
  14. Dr. Francisco Velez, city health officer of Cebu;
  15. Rita Mageto, student;
  16. Cleto Villanueva, student;
  17. Pelbita Martires, student;
  18. Nilda Jiroche, student;
- (Continued on page 3)

X  
X

## The Missing Known So Far

(Continued from page 1)

19. Mrs. Nilda Belmonte, and
20. Her son;
21. Estella Fermin;
22. Ester Fermin;
23. Hernan Fermin
24. Guillermo Montinola
25. Jose Palma
26. Cesar Ledesma
27. Vicente Ledesma
28. Godofredo Fernandez
29. Remedios Castro, U. P. conservatory of music; and her brother,
30. Jose Castro, Ateneo de Manila;
31. Ramiro Morales, U. P. college of law;
32. Lourdes Nacar, U. P. college of education;
33. Justiniano Tumalak, Francisco Law School;
34. Fidel Sadaya, Far Eastern University;
35. Esperanza Sadaya, U. P. college of medicine;
36. Armando Caneja, Madrigal & Co.;
37. Publio Negapatan, U. P. college of veterinary science; and his sister,
38. Turlata Negapatan;
39. Cipriano Luna, of Agusan, and
40. His son;
41. Coronacio Gustilo, and her sister,
42. Adela Gustilo, of Iloilo;
43. Francisco Montañer, Ateneo de Manila;
44. Jesus Villanueva (son of Senator Villanueva).
- 45-46 Two Roa children, relatives of Mrs. Antonio C. Torres.
- 47-48 Two Abad girls, nieces of Mrs. Antonio C. Torres.
49. Jose Avila, Jr., basketball coach, of Cebu.
50. Rafael Bonanza, first mate of the Corregidor.
51. Jose Crespo, chief engineer.
52. Jose Songalong, first assistant engineer.
53. Ramon Suzara, second assistant engineer.
54. Pedro Mateu, and
55. P. Songalong, third assistant engineers.
56. Doroteo Francisco, radio operator.

X  
X  
X  
X  
X  
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From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of 18 December 1941



# Tales of Heroism in Disaster

Dr. Narciso Laborde, city health officer of Iloilo, was at the ship's bar when the Corregidor blew up. With him were Dr. Francisco Velez, health officer of Cebu City, and Mauricio Estella, of Cebu. Dr. Velez is among the missing while Estella was saved.

"Everything happened so suddenly that I can't even remember having heard the blast," Laborde related yesterday at the City YMCA emergency hospital. The next moment he found himself in the water in pitch darkness. He managed to get hold of a floating empty barrel, and later clung to an empty boat that had gotten loose from the ship. Dr. Laborde is a good swimmer and while he was clinging to the boat he heard Estella's cry for help. Laborde pulled Estella to the boat. After three hours in the water help came to the survivors.

Three Q-boats, one of them on routine patrol, picked up survivors.  
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## Tales of Heroism In Disaster

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Rescue boats were also sent from Fort Mills. Estella slipped into the water while being helped aboard one of the rescue boats. Somebody managed

to grab him before he disappeared.

Dr. Laborde believes that most of those below decks were killed. Many of those on deck were saved as they had lifebelts on, and were blown clear into the water. As the ship was in a blackout, Dr. Laborde said, many passengers had no time to look for relatives and friends when the ship blew up.

"When the ship blew up," Mrs. Esther Luna, of Agusan, related, "my husband gave me a lifebelt, and then threw me together with my four-year-old son into the water. I did not loosen my hold on the boy until help came." Mrs. Luna has not yet received news of her husband and their other child. She and her boy were treated at the San Juan de Dios Hospital. The boy's right eye was blackened and closed, but he suffered no other injuries.

Floating empty gasoline and petroleum cans saved many lives, according to Fundador Demandante, one of the survivors, who managed to reach a life-raft with the use of the petroleum can. "Awakened by the commotion, I went up on deck to find out what it was all about, at the same time grabbing a life-belt for safety," Demandante related. "Before I could reach the bridge where the officer on watch was located, I saw the ship sinking. Lacking no time, I jumped over-

board. With a life-belt on, I was able to float. I grabbed a floating petroleum can, and swam to the nearest life-raft. We were six aboard the raft, including an American technician, who was enroute to Mindanao."

The only two women among about 50 men in an overloaded life-raft of survivors brought back with them tales of heroism. The two women are Mrs. Cristina Chiong, 27, wife of a Chinese merchant in Agusan; and Domitina Arizala, 34, of Cebu. They are now at the Philippine General Hospital. Both are suffering from shock and exposure.

Mrs. Chiong said that upon seeing her alongside the life-raft, some of the men pushed her head into the water. "I almost drowned as they did it every time I tried to climb into the raft," she recounted.

"I started to sink and had almost given up trying to survive when a man in an army officer's uniform threw another lifebelt into the water. Other men who had realized that a woman was in distress helped him pull me in the raft. I learned that my rescuer was one Lt. Daniles. He was on his way to his station in Bohol. Before saving me, he had also saved a handsome 9-year-old boy whose family is believed to have perished."

Mrs. Chiong also recounted the story of a mother's courage to save her child. "I was still on the life-raft I had originally boarded when the ship sank," she narrated. "One of us was Mrs. Ester Luna of Agusan, and her child. As the sea buffeted the craft, the child was washed overboard. Barely able to swim, although equipped with a lifebelt, Mrs. Luna jumped overboard and saved her child. The latter was washed overboard twice, and each time the mother jumped into the sea to save the child. The two arrived safely in Manila. Her husband Cipriano Luna, and another child were missing."

"I am still wondering how I managed to survive in that disaster," Pablo Rubi, 33, of Cebu, a survivor, said yesterday. "I gave up all hope when I was drawn deep into the water by the suction of the sinking ship. You can't imagine the force of the draft. When I came up on the surface, my shoes and socks were gone." Rubi related that an engine man came out of the ship with burns all around the body due to the explosion of the boilers. A veteran seaman, the injured man managed to reach their raft. Taken aboard the rescue ship, the man died on the way to Corregidor.

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## 2 Solons Missing; Tan Saved, Family Lost

Two legislators, Assemblymen Juan M. Reyes, of the 3rd district of Capiz, and Atanacio Ampig, 3rd district, Iloilo, are among the missing in the Corregidor disaster. Three other legislators, Assemblymen Jose E. Romero, 2nd district, Negros Oriental; Calixto O. Zaldivar, Antique, and Dominador M. Tan, 2nd district, Leyte, were saved.

All the five solons were in Manila when the war broke, having

come to the city after the national elections to attend the special session of the National Assembly which opened on December 11.

Both Assemblymen Zaldivar and Tan were taken to the Red Cross emergency hospital No. 2, corner of Herran and Pennsylvania, where they were treated for minor injuries. Tan left the hospital after treatment and spent the night at the San Juan

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## 2 Solons Missing; Tan Saved, Family Lost

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residence of his father-in-law, ex-Governor Lopez, of Leyte. Zaldivar remained at the hospital.

Assemblyman Romero, according to reports, is in Corregidor, suffering from serious injuries. He had taken the Corregidor to be with his family in Negros Oriental.

Assemblyman Tan lost his wife and his two children, Dominador, Jr., 10 years old, and Ana Maria, 9. His sister Milagros, 28, is also missing.

Assemblyman Tan and his family were occupying an upper deck cabin forward. While Mrs. Tan chose to sleep in the warm cabin, Tan placed his two children and sister on cots just outside the cabin. He stood on the door to stand guard. Before the ship sailed, he said, he found only one life-belt in the cabin and he asked the cabin boy for five more belts.

When the cabin boy returned with the belts, Tan placed one on his wife's cabin bed and one each on the cots outside.

Assemblyman Tan related the explosion took place at exactly 12:45 a.m. He said he knew the time because he was continuously looking at his watch when the ship entered the minefield. When the mine exploded, he cautioned the members of his family to keep calm.

He had time to tie the life-belts around everyone of his family, but this took time because the belts were defective. One of them had no strings. He was hugging his two children when the boat sunk. All of them went down carried by the draft caused by the sinking ship.

Tan lost his grip on his children. When he came to the surface, he tried to look for the members of his family but he could not locate them. Finally, a boat from Corregidor picked him up.

Tan said that the members of the crew behaved badly. Most of them jumped into life boats, leaving the passengers behind.

The mine exploded amidship, near the engine room, Tan said. All the crew in the engine room were killed instantly, except one who was rescued by a PT-boat. This man, however, died

on the rescue ship beside Tan.

Tan said that the *Corregidor* was packed. All decks were so packed with cots that people could hardly walk. In some cases, two persons slept on the same cot. Assemblymen Zaldivar and Reyes slept on one cot.

While rescue boats from Fort Mills appeared an hour after the sinking, rescue proved difficult because the boats had to skirt the mines. On top of that, according to Tan, the waves were big and the current swift. Rescuers also had difficulty in locating people as they were covered with oil.

Powerful searchlights from *Corregidor* were thrown on the sea and this aided the rescue work.

Assemblyman and Mrs. Tan were married 11 years ago. Mrs. Tan was Lilia Lopez, daughter of ex-Governor Lopez. Assemblyman Tan highly commended the heroism of the rescuers and the army officers and enlisted men at Fort Mills, who looked after the survivors.

Assemblyman Jose A. Dorado, of the 2nd district, Capiz, wanted to go home on the s.s. *Corregidor* with the 10 members of family, but decided at the last minute to remain in Manila.

Assemblyman Ramon A. Arnaldo lost his son, Edgar, who recently passed the bar examinations. Arnaldo flew to Capiz with his daughter only last Monday, leaving instructions to his son to follow on the s.s. *Corregidor*.

Assemblyman Reyes was elected to the National Assembly in 1938. He is a brother of Mons. Gabriel Reyes, archbishop of Cebu.



## Gave Belt to Colleague

Assemblyman Calixto O. Zaldivar, safe from the Corregidor disaster and none the worse except for four harrowing hours in the water, is glad that he used to be

In the water, after a short swim, he found a barrel. A girl swam to the barrel carrying both the assemblyman and the barrel under. The assemblyman left the

## Gave Belt To Colleague

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Assemblyman Zaldivar was on the same cot with Assemblyman Ampig when the explosion shook the ship. They started for the life-boats, but they heard the loud cry, "No Hay Caso." (No immediate danger). They were turning back relieved when they felt the boat keeling over, prow up, and stern down. They dashed to the bridge, but before they could reach it, the deck was awash. Zaldivar found himself carried down. Carried to the surface, he swam around until he found a barrel.

The worst experience during the four hours in the water, he said, was hearing the repeated cries of his colleague, Assemblyman Dominador Tan, for his wife and children. Assemblyman Tan survived, but his wife and two children, his sister and servants are among the casualties.

Assemblyman Zaldivar was sailing to Antique to see his family before joining the army. He is a reserve officer, and had asked to be called to duty on the second day of the war. He was, however, given permission to see his family in Antique before joining the army.

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of  
18 December 1941



# Visayan Cagers On Corregidor

## 22 PLAYERS FROM CEBU, ILOILO SAVED

The Cebu and Iloilo basketball teams are believed to have lost 13 members when the s. s. Corregidor struck a mine and sank in Manila Bay early yesterday morning. Of the 35 players and coaches of the two delegations on board the ship, only 22 have been accounted for so far, according to Dr. Regino R. Ylanan, secretary-treasurer of the PAAF, who made a check up immediately upon being informed of the sinking of the vessel.

Among the survivors is Dr. Dionisio Alburo, head of the Cebu delegation and member of the medical staff of the Southern Hospital in Cebu. He is at the San Juan de Dios hospital, suffering from shock and slight injury. Twenty other surviving members of the two delegations are in the Sta. Rita's hall, while one remained in Corregidor, presumably for medical treatment.

The two Visayan teams arrived in Manila on December 7 to take part in the national basketball championship which was to have opened last Sunday, Dec. 14. The players were quartered at the Rizal coliseum and were waiting for the opening of the tournament when the war broke out.

Dr. Alburo related that he was in the salon of the Corregidor when the disaster struck. There was a loud explosion, he said, and he was thrown out of his seat. The next thing he knew was that the ship was sinking fast. Dr. Alburo found himself under water and unable to escape from inside the doomed

vessel. Groping his way, he made for the side of the ship and began pushing the panels in the hope of finding an opening. Fortunately, he came to what he believed was a door because when he pushed it, it gave way. Instantly he swam through the opening and came up to the surface. He clung to a raft with other survivors on it until they were rescued by a Q-boat.

Dr. Ylanan said last night that the Cebu delegation consisted of one coach, 12 players officially selected for the championship, and seven young players from the Southern College who accompanied the team and came to Manila at their own expense in order to see the games. The seven young men were accompanied by a Mr. Alviola, who acted as assistant coach of the Cebu quintet. The Cebu delegation consisted of 21 men.

The Iloilo contingent consisted of one coach, one assistant coach, 12 players officially selected, and two other players who came to Manila at their own expense. The Iloilo group was made up of 26 men.

Of the 37 members of both teams, only 35 sailed on the Corregidor for their return home, Dr. Ylanan said. Two remained in Manila. One of these, Sanchez, assistant coach of the Iloilo team, had decided to take another boat. The other, a player, was left behind after he had left his baggage at the coliseum. This player, with two others, were already on the Corregidor, when they found out they had left their baggage behind. Two of them went back to the boat after getting their belongings from the coliseum, while the other one decided to remain.

Sgt. Jose Manalo, coach of the Iloilo quintet, was reported among the 13 missing.

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of 18 December 1941



## **Corregidor's Naval Tradition**

The s.s. Corregidor now rests at the bottom of Manila Bay, but she leaves a glorious naval tradition behind.

Many knew her as the fastest inter-island ship in the Philippine service, but few knew that she was a veteran of the Battle of Jutland and that she was the first airplane carrier ever built.

As a unit of the Royal Navy, her original name was the H.M.S. Engadine. Air enthusiasts in the admiralty had fitted the 1,888-ton vessel into a plane carrier. She carried a few sea-

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## **Corregidor's Naval Tradition**

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planes, which were mainly for reconnaissance purposes.

The Engadine took part in the naval encounter in World War I, and sent her planes up into the air to shadow the German Fleet on May 31, 1916. During the battle she came to the rescue of a damaged English battleship. While the damaged capital ship was being towed by the Engadine, it sank and the plane carrier took over the officers and crew of the sinking craft. The Engadine survived the world war unscathed.

The big aircraft carriers of the world owe part of their existence to the use of the Engadine as the first experimental plane carrier of the Royal Navy.

After the war, Fernandez Hermanos, operators of the Compa-

ña Maritima, bought the vessel and renamed it the Corregidor after converting it into a luxury inter-island ship.

From "THE TRIBUNE" Issue of  
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## 90 Known Missing From "Corregidor"

Thirty-five more names were added yesterday to the list of missing persons in the Corregidor disaster, bringing the total of missing persons whose names are known to 90.

Nothing was available regarding the fate of 62 army soldiers who sailed on the Corregidor for southern stations last Wednesday night.

Among those added to the missing list yesterday were Rep.-elect Decoroso Rosales of Samar and Lieut. Antonio Masigan, Philippine Army.

Three more survivors, crewmen of the Corregidor, were brought from Fort Mills yesterday afternoon by a navy launch. They were met at Pier 1 by Red Cross personnel; one of them was taken home and the other two to Red Cross hospitals.

Ramon Vedula, fourth engineer, who had been given up for dead, was received with tears of joy by his mother and other members of his family at his home, 218 A. Flores, Ermita. Before

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## 90 Known Missing From "Corregidor"

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Vedula's arrival, his family had no knowledge that he was one of the survivors.

The second survivor, Eleuterio Hernandez, a resident of San Andres Sub-Division, was taken to the Philippine General Hospital, where his injuries were treated.

The third man, Epifanio Cumar, of Mandaluyong, Rizal, was taken to Red Cross hospital No. 2, corner of Herran and Pennsylvania.

Most of the 270 survivors who were taken to Red Cross hospitals last Wednesday left yesterday. Only a few with serious injuries remained for further treatment.

Tales of the heroism of a few male passengers who risked their lives to rescue drowning women were told by Emma Ledesma and Adelaida Pajes, students of the Philippine Women's University, who were on their way home to Cebu.

Miss Ledesma related that

when the ship hit the mine she was on the main deck, near the dining room, talking to a friend, Esperanza Sadaza, and her brother.

The following were added yesterday to the missing list in the Corregidor disaster:

Assemblyman-elect Decoroso Rosales, Samar; Emma Pelaez, student, Philippine Women's University; Atty. Malayan, Cebu City; Jose Ayda, Cebu City; Lieut. Ayda, Cebu City; Dr. Manuel Lison, director, Cebu Hospital; Vicente Dicho, nurse, clerk, Everglades Hospital; Tristan Pelaez, student, Maxima Institute; Rodolfo Pabla, Baja, Negros Oriental; Miss Sayong Leyer; Nona San Agustin, Iloilo; Jose Dionisio, Central Hotel, Iloilo;

Marcelino Abala, Cebu City; Lieut. Alfredo Mexican, Manila; Antonio Abasolo, Bacolod; William Canaan, Iloilo; Alejandro de la Cruz, Makato, Cebu; Jose P. Divinogracia, Dumaguete, Iloilo; Alfredo Palmaros, Pasig, Iloilo; Dolores Magdalena, Makato, Cebu; Jose Manala, detective, Iloilo City; Regina Mercedes, Concepcion, Montalvo; Jose P. Martin; Paula Riosfort; Francesca Encarnacion; Jesus Radio, Cebu City; Donato Rosal, Cebu City; Manuel Serrano, Jr., Makato, Cebu; Amadorita Villa, Davao, Iloilo; Insensencia Cortes, former assemblyman of Surigao; his daughter, Mrs. Purita Cortes Encarnacion, her three children, Maria, A. Mita, and Minda, I; and one maid.

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of 19 December 1941



# "Corregidor" Rescue Hopes Fading

**Full Death Toll May  
Never Be Known—  
Probe Ordered**

The exact number of passengers who lost their lives in the sinking of the s. s. Corregidor will perhaps never be known.

Survivors questioned yesterday by Surveyor of the Port Jose Gallofin gave various estimates of the size of the passenger list, ranging from 500 to 700 passengers, and were agreed only on the fact that the ship was crowded to the topmost deck. Other estimates placed the number of passengers at 1,200.

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# "Corregidor" Rescue Hopes Fading

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Senator-elect Ramon J. Fernandez, president of Compania Maritima, owners of the vessel, said yesterday that company figures show that tickets were issued to 261 passengers, and that besides these, the ship carried 62 soldiers and a crew of 60, making a total of 383.

Survivors accounted for by the Red Cross total 280, but it is likely that at least 20 who did not report at the emergency hospitals for treatment were not registered.

Hope of finding more survivors faded yesterday as two coast-guard cutters, the Apo and the Arayat, failed to find any after scouring the area near the minefields at the entrance of Manila Bay, where the Corregidor sank after striking a mine at 12:50 a. m. last Wednesday.

Two official inquiries on the disaster will be conducted by the government. The board of marine inquiry will conduct an investigation to determine the responsibility for the accident as soon as an official report of the disaster is filed with the bureau of customs by the surviving officers of the Corregidor. A separate legislative investigation will be conducted by the National Assembly in accordance with a resolution which Assemblyman Enrique Magalona will file at today's session of the legislature.

The name of Rep.-elect Decaroso Rosales was added to the list of missing passengers yesterday. Governor Vicente Pormaso, secretary to Speaker Jose Yulo, heard that Rosales, who won over ex-Secretary Jose Avelino in the last elections, was a passenger on the Corregidor and has not been accounted for. Definitely given up for lost were Assemblymen Juan M. Reyes of Capiz and Atanacio Ampig of Iloilo.

Assemblyman Jose E. Romero, of Negros Oriental, is still in serious condition in a military hospital at Fort Mills. Reports received by his relatives in the city last night said that Romero was still unconscious up to yesterday afternoon.

Other reports were that the Corregidor's list was in excess of 600 as many who had gone on board to bid goodbye to departing friends and relatives could not leave the ship at the last moment and were taken along. When the signal for departure was sounded, according to these reports, about 200 passengers on the dock rushed up the gangplanks, making it impossible for those who were on the boat merely to see friends off to leave the ship.

Jose Gallofin, surveyor of the port, yesterday started a preliminary inquiry, securing testimony from as many survivors as possible. He learned from the survivors that the Corregidor was crowded to capacity. Their estimates ranged from 500 to 700 passengers.

Collector De Leon declared that no one seems to know more about the accident than the survivors who had different versions of it.

Meanwhile, Senator Fernandez, head of the Compania Maritima, yesterday declined to make any official statement beyond saying that "if any statement is to be made, the U. S. Army will have to do it." The boat was dis-

patched by army authorities.

Senator Fernandez declared, however, that the casualties could not be more than 103.

It was learned from the Maritima office that Pedro Maten, third assistant engineer, remained ashore, having missed his boat. The fate of Captain Apolinar Calvo, master of the Corregidor, is still unknown.

A legislative investigation of the sinking of the Corregidor will be conducted by the Assembly. A resolution to this effect, introduced by Assemblyman Magalona, is expected to be approved by the legislature at its session today.

This was revealed yesterday by Speaker Jose Yulo following a legislative caucus. Assemblyman Magalona, of Negros Occidental, who lost several relatives in the disaster, filed the resolution.

Speaker Yulo said that the legislative investigation of the disaster is aimed at ascertaining the facts of the sinking. A committee of five members, which will conduct the probe, will report these facts to the Assembly for whatever action it may deem proper to take.

Members of the Assembly yesterday mourned the death of two of their colleagues, Assemblymen Juan M. Reyes, of Capiz, and Atanacio Ampig, of Iloilo, and the loss of the members of the family of Assemblyman Dominador M. Tan, of Leyte.



## 12 VISAYAN PLAYERS ARE MISSING

Of the 35 basketball players from Cebu and Iloilo who were on the s. s. Corregidor when the boat sank last Wednesday morning after hitting a mine in Manila Bay, 23 are known to have been saved.

A thorough checkup made yesterday morning by Dr. Regino B. Ylanan, secretary-treasurer of the PAAF, revealed that 23 members of the two delegations survived the disaster and not 22 as first reported and that the missing numbered only 12 instead of 13. Dr. Ylanan said that one of the survivors did not register at the Sta. Rita's Hall where the rest of the players were taken after being fished out of the water.

Of the 23 surviving members of the Visayan delegation, 17 are from Cebu and six from Iloilo. Of the 12 missing, three belonged to the Cebu contingent and nine from the Iloilo team.

The members of the two Visayan basketball units who arrived

in Manila on December 7, also on the Corregidor, for the national championship which was to have started on December 10, numbered 37, but two remained in Manila and did not take the Corregidor on its ill-fated return trip to the South. One of the men who had decided to take another boat home was Physical Director Sanchez, who was head of the Iloilo delegation. The other was one player who changed his mind about going on the Corregidor after he had left his luggage behind at the Rizal coliseum.

J. Nacua, captain of the Cebu quintet, and L. Rosel, a player on the same team, arrived in Manila yesterday morning after staying overnight at Fort Mills where they were treated for injuries. They are quartered at the Sta. Rita's Hall with the other members of the delegation.

Dr. Ylanan said yesterday that it was difficult to give out the

exact list of the missing players because not all members of both teams were registered with the PAAF. Some of them came at their own expense as rooters and observers. They were players who failed to be selected for the championship games.

Among the known missing were Sgt. Jose Manalo, coach of the Iloilo team, and 'Bing' Avila, manager of the Cebu team.

Following is the list of survivors quartered at the Sta. Rita's Hall:

**CEBU (17)**—Dr. Dionisio Albuero (head of delegation), J. Nacua (captain), B. Alcubia, F. Montecillo, J. Cabonga, S. Llamoso, L. Ocaña, L. Rosel, A. Alcudia, A. Quiño, D. Roaya, G. Natur, P. Aviola (assistant coach), E. Pacres, Qui Siang Sing, C. Quiamco, and A. Bas.

**ILOILO (6)**—Guillermo Suarez, F. Robles, D. Villaruz, G. Peñasales, F. Andilab, and E. Zamora.

From "THE TRIBUNE" Issue of 19 December 1941



## 3 MORE CAGE PLAYERS FOUND SAFE

After a search of all emergency hospitals in Manila where three more survivors, first reported as missing, were discovered, the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation last night said that the number of missing from the Cebu and Iloilo basketball delegations in the Corregidor disaster total only 11, and not 12 as previously reported.

A round up of the hospitals yesterday morning by Elpidio Lambojon, cashier of the PAAF upon orders from Dr. Regino R. Ylanan, secretary-treasurer of the federation, resulted in finding of Bernabe Villegas and Rafael Alianza, both of the Iloilo team, in the Red Cross emergency hospital in the Malate Catholic School, and of Raymundo Dominado, also of Iloilo, in the Marques de Comillas hospital. Villegas and Alianza were removed to Sta. Rita's Hall where the other survivors are at present quartered. Dominado was not allowed to be taken out of the Marques de Comillas hospital as he is suffering from some injuries.

According to the transportation order issued by the PAAF to the members of the two Visayan delegations, 37 athletes and coaches were on board the Corregidor when the boat left Manila Wednesday evening. Of this number, 13 were official members of the Cebu team, 11 unofficial members from Southern College in Cebu, and 13 members of the Iloilo delegation.

Jose (Bing) Avila Jr., head of the Southern College contingent, is among those reported missing. Avila, together with Alberto Quiño, of the same delegation, had their tickets cancelled by the purser of the Corregidor when they failed to show up at the boat. However, just before sailing time, they rushed up the gangplank only to be told that their baggage had been left at the Rizal coliseum. The pair rushed to the coliseum to get their belongings and went back to the ship a few minutes before it sailed. While Avila is believed to have perished, Quiño was saved.

Jose Avila Sr. and members of his family came to Manila to attend the wedding of their daughter Rosario. They are reported safe in the city. They believe that Bing, who is a good swimmer, is safe somewhere in the vicinity of the accident. Bing was a member of the La Salle basketball team and distinguished himself in the NCAA games several years ago. After his course at La Salle, he went home to Cebu to help his father manage a string of movie houses.

The PAAF reported that two members of the Visayan delegation did not take the Corregidor, intending to take some other boat later. They are Physical Director Sanchez of Iloilo city and Salvador Manubag, of the Southern College contingent.

Those reported missing are:

Cebu AAA — Eugenio Tiampo, Federico Rosal, and Jesus Bodis.

Southern College — Jose Avila Jr. (head of delegation), Eladio Villa, Marcelino Abias, Delfin Pesons.

Iloilo AAA — Sgt. Jose Manalo (coach), Romeo Robles, Guillermo Boyco, and Aurelio Poblador.

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## Corregidor Probe Ordered

The National Assembly yesterday noon approved a resolution authorizing a legislative investigation of the sinking of the s. s. Corregidor. This disaster took the lives of two legislators, Assemblymen Juan M. Reyes and Atanasio Ampig.

Immediately after the approval of the resolution, Speaker Jose Yulo appointed Assemblyman Gregorio Perfecto, chairman, and Assemblymen Emilio de la Paz, Jose Cojuangco, Genaro Visarra and Marcial O. Rafola as members to compose the committee.

The session was attended by Assemblyman Calixto O. Zaldivar, one of the survivors of the Corregidor. He gave his colleagues an off-the-record account of the sinking.

Meanwhile, the customs cutter Apo, one of the ships sent to the scene of the accident to

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## Corregidor Probe Ordered

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help search for survivors, returned to Manila early yesterday morning without finding a single survivor.

Captain Juan M. Panopio, master of the Apo, reported that they found no trace of missing persons during the search in Manila Bay. The Apo combed the waters from Cavite to Corregidor and also along the coast of Limay, Orion, and Balanga, Bataan. They found only floating empty boxes, cans and sacks of flour.

Capt. Panopio believed that in view of the swiftness of the sinking of the Corregidor, most passengers in their cabins and in the lower decks were unable to reach the upper deck to jump overboard. This probably accounts for the absence of floating bodies, he said.

The cutter Arayat is still in Corregidor, continuing the search for missing passengers. Several U.S. Navy launchers patrolling the mine fields are also searching for survivors.

Assemblyman Jose Romero, who was seriously injured in the Corregidor disaster, also arrived yesterday from Fort Mills where he had been placed in a military hospital following his rescue.

Jose Avila, business man of Cebu, is still in Manila with his family except Jose Jr. who was aboard the s.s. Corregidor.

Lt. Alfredo Masigan, PA, son of Claro Masigan, arrived in Manila yesterday and was taken to a nearby army post. He was originally reported among those missing in the Corregidor sinking.

## Corregidor's 2nd Officer Files Protest

Without making any mention of the total number of passengers aboard the ship and the nature of its cargo, Argimiro Vidal, second officer of the ill-fated s.s. Corregidor, yesterday morning filed a marine protest with the surveyor of the port, giving an account of the sinking, in his capacity as the ranking surviving officer.

Vidal reported that the Corregidor sailed from Pier 1 at 10 p.m. on December 16, with "permission from the correspond-

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## "Corregidor's" 2nd Officer Files Protest

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ing authorities." Once outside of the breakwater, Captain Apolinar Calvo sailed the ship towards Corregidor at full steam.

Upon reaching the vicinity of the mine-fields, Capt. Calvo stopped the ship, and asked the naval authorities by radio for their position. Satisfied of his position, the captain proceeded slowly, following the instructions given by the navy port director that morning. "It was then that I heard an explosion and the ship began to list," Vidal said.

Capt. Calvo immediately ordered the wireless operator to flash SOS signals, and asked the officers to attend to the transfer of passengers to life-boats. Vidal was assigned to take charge of life-boat No. 4, but the ship sank a few minutes after the explosion at 12:47 p.m.

After some hours, several Q-boats arrived at the scene to pick up survivors. After the sinking, Vidal never saw Capt. Calvo nor First Officer Rafael Bonanza, who were at the bridge at the time of the disaster.

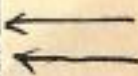
Meanwhile, the customs bureau yesterday sent a letter to the Compania Maritima, owners and operators of the Corregidor, giving them 24 hours to show cause why no administrative action should be taken against them for clearing the ship without advising the bureau, and for carrying passengers in excess of the number she was authorized to carry.

With the filing of the marine protest, Collector of Customs Alfredo de Leon may summon the board of marine inquiry this week to conduct the investigation to determine the responsibility for the accident.

Alfredo G. Bagula, of Cebu

City has been added to the list of missing in the sinking of the Corregidor. Friends who saw him off at the boat last Wednesday reported yesterday that he has not been accounted for either among those listed as having perished or among those who survived. Two other Filipino army officers are also reported as having died in this disaster. They are Lieut. Francisco Quisumbing and Lieut. Abraham Posadas.

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12/17/41  
12.47 PM



From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of  
24 December 1941

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue  
of 20 December 1941

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 883078



## Maritima Called to Probe

The bureau of customs will send a letter today to the Compania Maritima, owners and operators of the s. s. Corregidor, giving them 24 hours to show cause why no administrative action should be taken against them for dispatching the vessel without clearance papers from the bureau and for allegedly taking passengers far in excess of the number the ship was authorized to carry.

The Corregidor sunk at the entrance of Manila Bay at 12:55 a. m. last Wednesday after striking a mine.

*(Continued on page 2)*

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of  
23 December 1941  
(continuation of article  
is missing)

## "CORREGIDOR" PROBE OPENS TOMORROW

The legislative investigation of the sinking of the s. s. Corregidor will be opened by the Perfecto committee at 10 a. m. tomorrow morning at the Legislative Building, the committee decided yesterday at its first meeting at the office of the Speaker.

Members of the investigating committee are Assemblymen Gregorio Perfecto, chairman, Emilio de la Paz, Jose Cojuangco, Genaro Visarra and Marcial O. Rañola.

The committee yesterday decided to subpoena the following to testify:

1. Survivors, especially Assemblymen Dominador M. Tan and Calixto O. Zaldivar.

2. Officials of the Compania Maritima, owners of the s. s. Corregidor, who will be required to produce records of the passenger tickets issued.

3. Surviving athletes, including members of the basketball teams

of Cebu and Iloilo.  
4. Officials and employees of the bureau of customs who had something to do with the clearance of the ship.

5. All other persons affected by the disaster, including relatives of the missing passengers.

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of  
21 December 1941

## "CORREGIDOR" PROBE ENDED

The legislative investigation of the sinking of the s. s. Corregidor was completed yesterday. The committee reported that the ship was overloaded and that there were not enough lifebelts for the passengers.

From "THE TRIBUNE" issue of  
25 December 1941



Tully

Ext. 765

RPR Br

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# DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 883078

FILE NO. AGAR-R	SUBJECT Project 010 - SS Corregidor Disaster		
TO Chief, RPR Br	FROM Tilly, Hqs, RPR Br	DATE 13 Jan 58	COMMENT NO. 1 jv/755

1. This project was initiated in an attempt to determine a use that could be made of the newspaper clippings of the SS Corregidor disaster.
2. Newspaper clippings from The Tribune, from 18-25 December 1941, containing accounts of the sinking of the SS Corregidor have been placed in a folder, which was formerly filed with the histories.
3. Newspaper accounts indicate the SS Corregidor was formerly the H.M.S. Engadine, a unit of the British Royal Navy. The 1,880 - ton vessel was outfitted as an airplane carrier and saw service during World War I. After the war the vessel was purchased by the Compania Maritima, renamed the Corregidor and converted into an inter-island luxury ship.
4. The Corregidor is reported to have sailed at 10:00 p.m., 16 December 1941 from Manila. At approximately 12:50 a.m., 17 December 1941 the vessel struck a mine in the minefields off Corregidor.
5. The Corregidor carried military personnel, government employees and other civilian passengers as well as a crew of sixty-five. The newspaper accounts contain extensive lists of the survivors and the known missing and dead.
6. It is recommended that since the references regarding military personnel, crew members, W D civilian employees etc., would be helpful in establishing the status of the individuals involved that the newspaper accounts of the sinking of the SS Corregidor be considered as acceptable archives.
7. It is further recommended that the folder titled "Clippings on the "SS Corregidor" Disaster" be numbered Folder #1, filed under decimal 569.14 and the names of all passengers and crewmen shown therein be carded with the appropriate status (Philippine Army, crew member, assemblyman, survivor, etc.) and placed in the master card files.

*Ellis E. Evans*  
ELLIS E. EVANS

Chief  
Policies & Procedures Unit

Recommended approval:  
*[Signature]*

Approved  
2 July 58  
*[Signature]*  
Capt, AGC



AGAR-R  
Chief, RPR Br

Project O10 - SS Corregidor Disaster  
Tilly, Hqs, RPR Br

13 Jan 58

jv/755

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ELLIS E. EVANS

Recommended Approval  
*[Signature]*

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PROJECT 010 - S.S. CORREGIDOR  
DISASTER

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~~S.S. CORR~~

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