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B R I E F

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE DEFENSE OF BATAAN

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## ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE DEFENSE OF BATAAN -- A BRIEF

Purpose.-- The purpose of this monograph is to present the salient military lessons during Defense of BATAAN where armed forces of the UNITED STATES were involved in actual battle immediately after Pearl Harbor. Although the operations are not comparable in magnitude to major battles during the latter years of World War II, a brief analysis of war lessons, both omissions and commissions, are worth presenting.

### THE DEFENSE

Japanese Landings and USAFFE Withdrawal.-- Barely six hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese KOBATA AIR DIVISION bombed and strafed CLARK FIELD, IBA FIELD, the CAVITE Naval Base, Ft. McKinley, Ft. Stotsenburg, Camp JOHN HAY and DAVAO. The results were so devastating that within an hour, the U.S. Far Eastern Air Force and Phil. Air Corps were completely crippled. Thereafter, USAFFE troops had to fight without the least of air support.

Under cover of aerial offensive major Jap landings in LINGAYEN and ANTIMONAN were almost unopposed except with a few artillery and M-1917 rifles manned by Filipino troops mobilized barely 45 days before. Japanese plan to overwhelm USAFFE troops in 10 days became apparent when the two major forces began pushing vigorously from the North and from the South, threatening a gigantic squeeze of Fil-American forces on LUZON.

As Jap pincers progressed against Filipino delaying action War Plan Orange #3 (WPO #3) was ordered into effect. This plan called for a coordinated withdrawal to BATAAN and a hold-out in the Peninsula until reinforcements from the U.S. could arrive. The withdrawal was accomplished by skillfully executed delaying actions, so closely coordinated between the North and South forces, allowing a timely funneling of troops and supplies through the CALUMPIT Bridge and the only main highway through SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA. A slight

error in time and space estimates would have cut off any of the withdrawing forces. This may be recorded as one of the most brilliant military operations of World War II. (When Manila fell after this withdrawal, Gen. MacArthur announced that while the "Enemy has the bottle, I have the cork". He had it indeed!).

#### FIRST DEFENSIVE LINE

The first defensive line occupied on 3 Jan 42, extended from MORON to ABUCAY through mount NATIB. The North and South LUZON forces were redesignated as I and II Philippine Corps, respectively.

The corps boundary was the 3620-foot mount SILANGANAN which made contact difficult. Furthermore BATAAN is a veritable jungle throughout. Relying on the obstacle offered by the precipitous Mt. SILANGANAN, the lines were left unmanned.

The Japanese made three determined frontal attacks during the period from 12-25 Jan. These attacks failing, the Enemy began probing the defense line for weak points. They came, by chance upon the undefended left flank of the II corps bordering mount NATIB, exploited it and threw a thousand troops through this opening, as a result of which a withdrawal to the PILAR-BAGAC line was ordered on 26 Jan '42.

#### THE SECOND DEFENSIVE LINE

During this withdrawal the Japanese pursuit was so vigorous that they established themselves astride the PILAR-BAGAC Road, thus depriving the USAFFE of this only lateral route of supply. USAFFE Engineers, however, succeeded in putting trails made passable for trucks.

Due to the heavy losses suffered during the thrusts against the MORON-ABUCAY line, the Japanese had to reorganize. During this period of "lull" engagements were limited to continuous patrol clashes. Japanese troops of company and battalion strengths attempted to create pockets in USAFFE lines in vain. These attempts were known as "Battle of the Pockets". Then a Regiment tried to land by motor boats and barges on points of the BATAAN Peninsula along

South China Sea resulting in a total annihilation of this regiment except for six taken as prisoners. These clashes were called the "Battle of the Points."

During this period of lull, a counterattack was suggested by Gen. VICENTE LIM, CG of the 41st Division but was not heeded by USAFFE Hqrs. A vigorous counterattack might have raised the morale of the USAFFE troops and capture lost grounds.

In the meantime, USAFFE Hqrs. ordered the reduction of ration, which forced the troops to eat only twice a day. The dwindling stock of ration was supplemented with carabao and horse meat. Monkey meat from the jungles even served as a delicacy for men along the OPLR. Men were kept fighting by promises of coming aid from U.S.

#### THE FALL

Early in March 1942 Japanese motorized troops and heavy artillery began to pour into LUZON for a final strike. A note was addressed to Gen. Wainwright asking him to surrender by noon 22 March. Gen. Wainwright who took over the command of USAFFE when Gen. MacArthur left for Australia turned down the note and with this 28,000 effectives faced the Jap attack which was launched at 031500 April. The starving USAFFE troops, still fervently hoping for the promised aid from America, fought hard but when their lines were subjected to artillery fire of incredible intensity and planes carpet-bombed their sectors, gallant attempts to hold back the enemy failed. On 9 April <sup>forces</sup> the beleaguered/were forced to concede that BATAAN had fallen.

#### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

(1) Advance Planning.-- Withdrawal to Bataan and hold-out in that peninsula was accomplished when War Plan Orange No. 3 was put into effect. This is an example of advance planning which definitely obviated confusion because commanders knew what to do and where to go.

(2) Coordination.-- Despite poor means of communications, the funneling of troops into BATAAN through CALUMPIT Bridge and the only

main highway through SAN FERNANDO, against Japanese "pincers" from the North and South was so closely coordinated that it can be considered one of the most brilliant retrograde movements in history.

(3) Air Support.-- Completely lacking in air support, no defense can succeed.

On the other hand, the Japanese failed to exploit his unopposed air superiority. The withdrawal to BATAAN could have been frustrated by a closer vigilance of the only main highway.

(4) Counter-attack.-- At a time when a counter-attack could have even regained morale for USAFFE troops, this powerful tool of defense was not even considered by USAFFE Headquarters.

(5) Psychological Warfare.-- Enemy propaganda directed to troops who knew what they were fighting for could never succeed.

(6) Logistics.-- No half-starved soldier can fight and win. Medical supplies could have been stocked to prevent the enormous casualties due to malaria.

(7) Troop Information.-- "Should the USAFFE troops have been truthfully informed that no aid from U.S. was coming"? While troop information principles dictate a dissemination of facts, in this case, doing so would have resulted in an early fall of BATAAN to the prejudice of over-all military strategy.

#### STRATEGIC ROLE

The invaluable effect of the Defense of BATAAN on allied victory was in the words of Gen. MacArthur, that it "enabled the United Nations to gather strength to resist in the Pacific. Had it not held out, Australia would have fallen with incalculably disastrous results."

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OF THE  
DEFENSE OF BATAAN

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## AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE

### DEFENSE OF BATAAN

Purpose.-- This monograph covers the operations of the UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, FAR EAST (USAFFE) in the Island of LUZON, PHILIPPINES, particularly on BATAAN Peninsula from 8 December 1941 to 9 April 1942. This is the story of the armed forces in a country not prepared for war when struck an unexpected blow by an aggressor nation. Although the operations presented herein is not comparable in magnitude to major battles of World War II, the fact that it was the first real fight of forces under the American flag, after Pearl Harbor, a general description of the main phases and salient military characteristics of the campaign is worth of study. Likewise, an analysis of lessons learned, both commissions and omissions, is worth the reading.

#### THE JAPANESE PLAN

Homma's Giant Pincers.-- The conquest of the Philippines was part of a special plan designated by the Japanese Imperial General Staff as "The Southern Campaign." To carry out that plan, two major objectives had to be accomplished first: the destruction of the American Navy to prevent it from maintaining supply lines in the Pacific; and the annihilation of the United States Far Eastern Air Force based in the Philippines to prevent air attacks on the Japanese beachhead landings.

After carefully picking Japan's ablest generals to command in the various theaters of operation, the Japanese High Command set December 8, 1941, for the commencement of the attack. Lying at the front gate in the Japanese southward march, the Philippines had to be taken quickly and fast, under one of the most brilliant commanders in the Japanese Army, Lt. Gen. MASAHARU HOMMA.

Gen. HOMMA was to strike directly at the greatest concentrations of American and Filipino troops on the key island of Luzon.

His 14th Army was to be divided into two major assault groups. Known as the TSUCHIHASHI FORCE, the main assault force, which was secretly staged off Formosa, was to land in North Luzon along Lingayen Gulf, while the MORIOKA FORCE, which was secretly staged off Palau Islands was to land at Lamon Bay. (See Situation Map A).

Japanese Forces.-- General Homma's 14th Army, which planned to overwhelm the Philippines in ten (10) days, consisted initially of the 48th Division (one of only two armored divisions); the 16th Division; the 4th Division, which was held in reserve in China; the 65th Brigade; and five extra detachments of one regiment each including artillery, tanks, anti-tanks and infantry, besides naval forces and the Fifth Air Division with a complement of about four hundred fighter planes, dive bombers, and heavy bombers. In strength, the whole assault force consisted of more than 100,000 men.

USAFFE Units.-- The Filipino reserve divisions, called for mobilization barely forty-five (45) days prior to the outbreak of hostilities were composed of raw, ill-armed, and poorly-equipped reservists, in most cases supplied with canvass shoes, blue denims and native coconut pulp helmets ("guinit"). Morale, however, as incomparably high-- the men knew what they were fighting for.

(For Troop Strength and armament comparisons between Philippine and Japanese divisions, see Apx 1).

Japanese Landings and USAFFE Withdrawal.-- Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Clark Field, Iba Field, the Cavite Naval Base, Fort McKinley, Fort Stotsenburg, Camp John Hay, and Davao were bombed and strafed by the Japanese Fifth Air Division. The effect of the attack was devastating. Within one hour, the U.S. Far Eastern Air Force and the Philippine Army Air Force were completely crippled, as a result of which the USAFFE troops had to fight the enemy thereafter without air support.

Under cover of an aerial offensive, the two Japanese flanking movements were dispatched from their secret rendezvous. Simultaneously, the Tanaka and the Sugamo detachments left their Formosa base,

and as scheduled, landed at Gonzaga and Vigan respectively, capturing in no time the Aparri and Laoag airports. In Southern Luzon, the Kimura detachment landed at Legaspi on December 12 and split into two forces, one going north to capture Naga, while the other moved south to seize Sorsogon. On December 20, 1941, the Sakabuchi Detachment hit Davao.

The landing in Gonzaga, Vigan, and Legaspi were not without opposition. It is now known that the first important actual contact with the enemy was an ambush of a Japanese patrol of two trucks by a patrol of Filipino infantry on a bridge near Tagudin, Ilocos Sur. The Japanese were wiped out, but the patrol had to withdraw in the face of Japanese reinforcements.

With both of his flanks firmly established and with the Kobata Air Division operating without opposition, the Japanese launched the main assault at Lingayen Gulf and at Atimonan, successfully. From then on they pushed from the South and from the North threatening a gigantic squeeze of Fil-American forces on Luzon against delaying actions. (See Situation Map B). As Japanese pincers progressed War Plan Orange #3 was ordered into effect. This plan called for a coordinated withdrawal to Bataan and a hold-out in that Peninsula until reinforcements could arrive from the United States.

The withdrawal was accomplished by a series of skillfully executed delaying actions, so closely coordinated between the North and South forces, allowing a timely funneling of troops and supplies through the Calumpit Bridge and the only main highway through San Fernando, Pampanga. A little error in estimates of time and space would have cut off either one of the withdrawing forces. (When Manila had fallen Gen. MacArthur announced that "while enemy has the bottle" he "had the cork." He had it, indeed!).

#### THE DEFENSE OF BATAAN

The Bataan Campaign was not a continuous engagement of sustained intensity. It was in reality two battles: The Japanese offensive in

January, 1942 ending with the failure of the 14th Army's 65th Brigade to wrest Mount Samat from the 41st Division (PA) and the rout of the Japanese 16th Division by the I Philippine Corps. The second Battle of Bataan was the Japanese April offensive culminating in its fall. In between, however, were the "Battles of Points and Pockets," plus the thousand and one patrol clashes which invariably resulted in the victory for the USAFFE.

(a) THE MORON-ABUCAY LINE

To hold the enemy, a pre-arranged defense line extending west to east from Moron going through Mount Natib to Abucay was established. When the USAFFE occupied this line the Northern and Southern Luzon Forces were redesignated the I and II Philippine Corps respectively, the first under Maj. General J.M. Wainwright and the second under Major General G. Parker. The Corps were divided by a north-south line drawn generally through Mount Natib on the north to Mount Samat on the south. General Wainwright's I Philippine Corps took the left flank anchored at Moron on the China Sea and to its east to a point below Abucay General Parker's II Philippine Corps held the front.

The I and II Corps boundary was the steep and precipitous 3620-foot Mount Silanganan, a satellite of (Mount Natib), which made contact between the Corps very difficult. (See Situation Map C). Probably a most costly mistake committed in the organization for defense of the Moron-Abucay Line was the over-reliance on the exceedingly steep slopes of Mt. Silanganan, where the lines were left hanging in the air. The enemy capabilities of locating and taking advantage of this gap, supposedly manned by nature's impassable obstacle--Mt. Silanganan, were ignored.

(b) THE JAPANESE ATTACK

The Japanese tactical scheme initially was to create a break in the MLR of the USAFFE by massing tanks and infantry for a frontal assault after Jap artillery had softened USAFFE positions.

In their attempt to destroy the Moron-Abucay Line the Japanese staged three determined frontal attacks all of which failed.

The first was the so called "Battle of Abucay" which dragged from 12 Jan to 25 Jan 1942, which ended disastrously for the enemy. With fresh troops drawn from the Nara Group (65th Brigade) the Japanese again vainly attempted to crack the line at a point south of the Abucay Hacienda. The 41st Division (PA) and 31st Inf (USA) repulsed the enemy attack and inflicted a large number of casualties. The attack failing at Abucay, the enemy resorted to a flanking movement to explore weak spots on the MLR. They came by chance upon the undefended left flank of the II Corps bordering at Mount Natib, exploited it, threw a thousand troops through this opening and threatened the rear of the I and II Philippine Corps.

At the same time elements of the 16th Japanese Division were probing the line assigned to the I Corps. After failing to stage a break-through at Moron, with the 1st Regular Division PA assisted by the 26th Cavalry (PS) defending the line, the Japanese skirted the west shoulder of Mount Natib. Exploiting this advantage the Japanese pushed another force over slopes of Mount Silanganan to the Moron-Bagac Road at Kilometer post 173. As a result the position of the I Philippine Corps became untenable and a withdrawal to the Pilar-Bagac Line had to be ordered. The 1st Regular Division was cut off and forced to withdraw through the rocky beaches which lay between the China Sea and the Japanese held highway.

By 26 January 1942, the I and II Philippine Corps were in position on the new line paralleling the Bagac-Pilar Road. Having gained time to reorganize its forces and having constructed its lines, the USAFFE forces fought back all enemy attempts to smash the USAFFE lines.

(c) THE PILAR-BAGAC LINE

In the general withdrawal to the Pilar-Bagac Line the II Corps was covered by the 31st Infantry (USA) assisted by 91st Division PA, the 26th Cavalry and 2 battalions of the Philippine Constabulary. In the withdrawal the Japanese threatened the retrograde movement of the II Corps with a light attack. The withdrawal to the Pilar-Bagac Line, was however successfully executed and the USAFFE occupied a shortened

front, doing away with the precipitous slopes of Mounts Natib and Silanganan.

The Japanese made a desperate effort to prevent the USAFFE from establishing positions in the new line. In this attempt the Japanese reached and established themselves astride the Bagac-Pilar Road thus depriving the USAFFE of their only lateral route of supply. The USAFFE were thus limited to the long coastal road around the tip of Bataan. During the period of lull however, the USAFFE Engineers succeeded in putting up an improvised road traversing Bataan just below the MLR. (Trails passable by Army vehicles are shown in Map C).

(d) THE LULL

The USAFFE bought the one-and-a-half months grace of holding Bataan after the "Battle of the Points and Pockets" at the Japanese own price--the Japanese 20th Infantry. The tragic fate of this regiment more than any other factor was responsible for the lull which afforded the tired and disorganized USAFFE a breathing spell and an opportunity to reform. During this period a miracle might have happened if the high command of the USAFFE took advantage of the suggestion of the late Brigadier General Vicente Lim, CG 41st Division (PA) for a full-scale counter-attack. The USAFFE high command's failure to take cognizance of Gen. Lim's suggestion due perhaps to inadequate G-2 information relative to the strength of the Japanese Army, resulted in the failure of the USAFFE to regain the rest of Bataan peninsula and its stores of supplies. It would have provided an opportunity to USAFFE stragglers to rejoin their outfit.

The counter-attack as proposed by Gen. Lim was based on his intimate knowledge of Japanese psychology of warfare. He knew that unless a Japanese is dead or crippled he will continue to attack, attack and attack. Gen Lim knew that a counter-attack would have raised the morale of the USAFFE as they would be fighting on the offensive and would have more chances of foraging food which had been their greatest enemy since they entered Bataan.

It was during this period when the morale of the Japanese was at its lowest. Besides, the strength of the 14th Army was so depleted its troops tired, confused and decimated by defending Filipino troops. The Jap reserves had fallen to almost nil.

General Lim's idea of a counter-attack was later corroborated by General MacArthur on 25 March 1942 when, upon being apprised of an imminent Japanese offensive wired General Wainwright:

"You should attack straight north with the I Corps and reach Olongapo. The II Corps advance rapidly to Dinalupihan, thence move quickly west on Olongapo where you will join forces and be able to seize Japanese supplies."

The order came one too late as the Japanese by this time had been reinforced by the Motorized 4th Division and Jap artillery units were already massing for the final assault on the beleaguered, starved, sick-ridden and exhausted USAFFE troops. Had the MacArthur order been received earlier, perhaps it would have spelled victory, however, short-lived for the USAFFE.

Here is a situation where nearly all requisites for a counter-attack were present but was not executed. Apparently counter-attack plans were not drawn and preplanned. Here is a situation when a commander could have rendered a far reaching decision.

(e) THE BATTLES OF THE "POINTS" AND "POCKETS"

During the lull, after the organization of the Pilar-Bagac line, isolated patrol clashes, peculiar to jungle warfare, occurred almost daily in the peninsula. The efforts of the Japanese to execute a turning against the USAFFE left (west) flank, reconnaissance in force utilizing motor boats and barges were dispatched along the coast of Bataan on the China Sea. This resulted in the "Battle of the Points". In order to save units trapped during Battle of the Points, attacks of company and battalion strengths were launched, resulting in the "Battle of the Pockets." (See Appendix 2 for detailed description).

(f) PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

From the outset the strategy of the Japanese in the Philippines was aimed at the alienation of the Filipinos from the Americans. This

was systematically followed up to the fall of Bataan. Insidious propaganda leaflets were prodigiously dropped all over Bataan. Some samples of Japanese propaganda exhorted Filipino soldiers to kill the Americans and their officers: Illustrated leaflets picturing scenes of broken homes; happy scenes of reunited families; of menu of varied delicacies served in Manila restaurants; and card guaranteeing safe conduct if any Filipino surrenders by presenting this card to the Japanese, etc.

However, the Filipino soldiers who had been reared and schooled in the democratic way of life and who were imbued with unswerving loyalty to America completely ignored the Japanese attempt to make them hate the Americans. To counteract any possible effects of Jap propaganda, the "Voice of Freedom" countered with propaganda capitalizing on Japanese brutality. Immortal practices were aired over the radio. "Aid is coming," was heard every evening.

(g) THE FALL OF BATAAN

Early in March 1942 elements of the Japanese 4th Division (Motorized) reinforced by the Nagano Detachment and with attached heavy artillery units began to pour in Luzon to reinforce the 14th Army's depleted ranks. With the arrival of these fresh troops General Homma was ready to strike once more.

General Homma having massed reinforcement to a total strength of around 55,000 men, addressed an advisory note to General Wainwright asking him to surrender his command. General Wainwright was given until noon 22 March 1942 to arrange for surrender.

On the other hand the USAFFE defenders who were slowly dying in their foxholes, were still fervently hoping for the promised aid from America to arrive. Division commanders knew that the very much expected aid from America had been diverted from the Philippines to Australia, and inwardly believed that the fall of Bataan was inevitable. Nevertheless they exhorted their men to fight.



The comparative strength of the opposing armies at the Moron-Abucay Line in January 1942 was in favor of the USAFFE. At the start of the April offensive the situation had been reversed. Disease and starvation had reduced the USAFFE effectives to around 28,000 men. The rest of 70,000 original Bataan defenders had either been killed or were sick in the hospitals. Out of this 28,000 walking soldiers only about 20,000 were combat-efficient.

The Japs launched their first attack at 031500 April 1942. Troops from the 4th Division and the Nagano Detachment were concentrated in front of the II Corps at the junction of the 21st and 41st Divisions (PA). To demoralize the battle-ridden defenders of Bataan, the Japanese subjected the area to an artillery fire of incredible intensity while Japanese planes carpet-bombed the sector between the 21st and 41st Divisions.

The USAFFE artillery, victor in many artillery duels over the Jap artillery, was now silenced by the Japanese Air Force. As the Japanese intensified their artillery preparation they massed their medium and light tanks in front of the 41st Division to spearhead the assault force. Behind the tanks were infantry troops. Concentrating their artillery fire on the 42nd Infantry Sector, the Japanese soon created an opening. The Japanese quickly exploited this gain and in a few hours thousands of Japanese soldiers had funnelled through the artillery-made opening had fanned out and were rolling back the USAFFE lines.

Gallant attempts were made to reorganize and restore the lines of the 41st and 21st Divisions but the odds were already too heavy. The 41st Division was forced to withdraw. Teams of tanks and dive bombers began to roll back the lines of the II Corps on the 6 April. The USAFFE tried to reform below the Bagac-Pilar Line but the Japanese tanks followed so closely and gave no time for the retreating USAFFE troops to reorganize. Three days after the breakthrough the Japanese had overrun the entire lower Bataan peninsula.

Bataan finally capitulated because the sick and battle-weary defenders of the island fortress were faced with an entirely fresh, well supplied army, supported by massed artillery and protected by an unopposed air force. Facing fresh troops toughened by the campaigns in China, the starved USAFFE soldiers, who were without tanks, artillery or air support, were not saved by their "system of foxholes weaving through dray and brittle grass land" which helped them during the first Battle of Bataan. On 9 April 1942 the beleaguered defenders were forced to concede that Bataan had fallen.

ANALYSIS.--- Many basic principles of combat were involved during the Bataan Campaign. Lessons of battle, be they committed or omitted, are worth discussing:

a. Lessons:

(1) Advance planning.--- The Defense of Bataan was not an accident. It was the result of a plan (War Plan Orange #3) conceived twenty years before by American military authorities as a tactical device for the defense of the Philippines. Although after the execution of the withdrawal, the plan of defense in the peninsula proved outmoded under present situation, nevertheless, subordinate commanders were spared the troubles of confusion because they knew what to do and where to go during withdrawal.

(2) Coordination.--- The withdrawal of the North and South Luzon forces through the San Fernando Highway and Calumpit Bridge might be considered one of the most brilliant operations in military history. A tiny error in calculating time and space considerations could have resulted disastrously in the cutting off of either force. Despite poor means of communication magnificent coordination to the minute was achieved by the commanders of the two forces.

(3) Value of air support.--- Completely lacking in air support, no defense can succeed. Failure of artillery to give desired cooperation could rightly be attributed to absence of aviation.

On the other hand, the Japanese hailed miserably to exploit his unchallenged air superiority. The withdrawal to Bataan could have been frustrated by a closer vigilance of the only main highway leading to the peninsula and ended the Philippine campaign four months earlier.

(4) Counter-attack.--- The value of counter-attack was not realized and exploited by the USAFFE command. At a time when all the requisites existed to launch a successful counter-attack this powerful instrument of the defense was not applied, if alone to regain the troops dwindling morale.

(5) Psychological warfare.--- Enemy propaganda directed to troops who knew what they were fighting for could never succeed.

Filipino troops' loyalty and patriotism were the best counter-measures against Japanese attempts to win the Filipinos towards their side.

(6) Logistics.-- The importance of supplies had been vividly depicted during this campaign. The old saying that "An Army creeps on its stomach" had been rightly confirmed. No half-starved soldier can fight and win.

(7) Troop information.-- "Should the USAFFE troops had been truthfully informed that no aid from the U.S. was coming during the crucial period of the defense"? This, up to the present, constitutes a controversial question. I share the opinion of the USAFFE Headquarters that, in most cases troop information principles dictate that troops must be correctly informed of what is happening, but in the case of the Defense of Bataan, doing so would have spelled disaster and the collapse of the peninsula would have occurred much earlier to the prejudice of over-all military strategy.

#### Strategic Value

The strategic importance and the invaluable effect of the Defense of Bataan on allied victory has been very appropriately described in Gen. MacArthur's Communique No. 1048 published on 19 Feb 1945:

"Bataan with Corregidor the citadel of its integral defense made possible all that has happened since. History, I am sure, will record it as one of the decisive battles of the world. Its long protracted struggle enabled the United Nations to gather strength to resist in the Pacific. Had it not held out, Australia would have fallen with incalculably disastrous results. Our triumphs of today belong equally to that dead army. Its heroism and sacrifices have been duly acclaimed, but the great strategic results of the mighty defense are only now becoming fully apparent. The Bataan garrison was destroyed due to its dreadful handicaps, but no army in history more thoroughly accomplished its mission. Let no man henceforth speak of it other than as magnificent victory."

APPENDIX 1

COMPARATIVE STRENGTH AND ARMAMENT OF A PHILIPPINE  
ARMY DIVISION AND A JAPANESE ARMY DIVISION

(Infantry)

|   | PA RESERVE<br>(USAFFE) | JAPANESE<br>(Data: courtesy of<br>G-2, PHILRYCOM) |
|---|------------------------|---|
| STRENGTH:                                     |                        |   |
| Off & EM .....                                | 8,705                  | 20,000  |
| ARMAMENT (Authorized in T/O):                 |                        |   |
| Rifles .....                                  | 6,627                  | 8,736   |
| Auto Rifles .....                             | 277                    | 0   |
| LMG .....                                     | 74                     | 355   |
| Hvy MG .....                                  | 12                     | 76  |
| Mortars .....                                 | 18                     | 0   |
| 75 MM G .....                                 | 24                     | 24  |
| 37 MM A/T G .....                             | 36 (Not issued)        | 8   |
| Grenade Discharger .....                      | 0                      | 354   |
| Mountain G .....                              | 0                      | 42  |
| 10 CM How .....                               | 0                      | 12  |
| Field How .....                               | 0                      | 18  |
| - - - - -                                     |                        |   |
| Troops landed initially by Japanese .....     |                        | 100,000   |
| Total USAFFE troops withdrawn to Bataan ..... |                        | 70,000  |

## APPENDIX 2

### THE BATTLE OF THE POINTS

The stubborn resistance of the USAFFE at the Moron-Abucay Line made the Japanese realize the futility of a frontal assault against the USAFFE MLR. Irked by the fact that his time table had been upset, Homma ordered the Commander of the Japanese 16th Division to destroy General Wainwright's I Philippine Corps, by flanking movement on the West Coast to destroy communication and supply lines; cut off the Bagac-Mariveles Road and to attack the left flank of the Fil-American Forces from the rear. To carry out this mission the 3rd Bn of the 20th Infantry was shipped off at Subic Bay on barges and boats in the dead of the night and headed toward Southern Bataan.

The Japanese 3rd Battalion was not warned of the dangers ahead. The dark night did not save them from the keen eyes of the coast watchers. When this sea-borne force neared the coast, USAFFE searchlights were focussed on the party. They became easy targets for the I Corps riflemen and as hell broke loose, the landing barges and boats were either sank, destroyed, or forced to withdraw. When a landing was made the survivors were finally wiped out by the USAFFE units, assigned as coast watchers.

When nothing was heard of the 3rd Bn, another Battalion of the 20th Regiment was dispatched to save the lost Battalion. This unit met the same fate as the 3rd Battalion. Only small groups succeeded in landing at different points and occupied the caves and rocky cliffs of the Southern tip of Bataan. Taking advantage of caves and elevated grounds, the Japanese survivors, well equiped and trained in jungle fighting stood their ground for almost 3 weeks until they were finally killed to the last man.

### THE BATTLE OF THE POCKETS

When the Japanese flanking movement through the China Sea failed, the Japanese immediately started a simultaneous frontal attack against the I and II Philippine Corps defense lines. Failing likewise to make

a breakthrough, the Japanese decided to withdraw. In the meanwhile the commanding officer of the Japanese 20th Regiment led his remaining battalion in a fool-hardy attempt to rescue his two battalions by cutting his way through the lines of the I Corps east of Bagac. By lucky coincidence the Regimental Commander stumbled into a gap near the vicinity of the limiting point between the 1st Regular Division and 11th Division (PA), then, left unguarded. He pushed his unit as far back as one kilometer beyond the front line and threatened the rear lines of the two divisions. The Battalion was immediately surrounded and was rendered immobile.

The Japanese blindly probed for a possible avenue of escape. In the confusion a reinforced company was separated and reached the vicinity of the Cotar River Valley. There it was surrounded by a battalion of the 11th Inf Regiment in a furious battle, later known as the "Battle of the Cotar Salient." The bulk of the Japanese under the Regimental Commander was cornered in the Tuol River Valley. The ensuing battle known as the "Battle of Tuol Pocket," resulted in the annihilation of the Japanese to the last man.

The Battle of the Pockets was fought in the thick jungles of Bataan. In this battle the deficiency of the USAFFE warriors in jungle fighting was evidently seen. It is also clear that while other factors had been previously taken care of, those who conceived WPO #3 failed to take into account the dense-tropical jungles of Bataan. On the other hand, the Japanese soldiers having been schooled in jungle warfare were at a decided advantage. In spite of their being numerically inferior, the Japs succeeded in holding their positions for about 3 weeks.

It was during this battle when the 11th Infantry Regiment composed of Igorot fighters proved their worth and showed that familiarity with jungle fighting was a decided advantage. Riding on the turrets of tanks, they directed the operation against the Japanese. In no other instance in Bataan has such nerve-racking courage and bravery been shown.



SITUATION MAP A  
 JAPANESE LANDINGS &  
 INITIAL DISPOSITION OF USAFFE FORCES

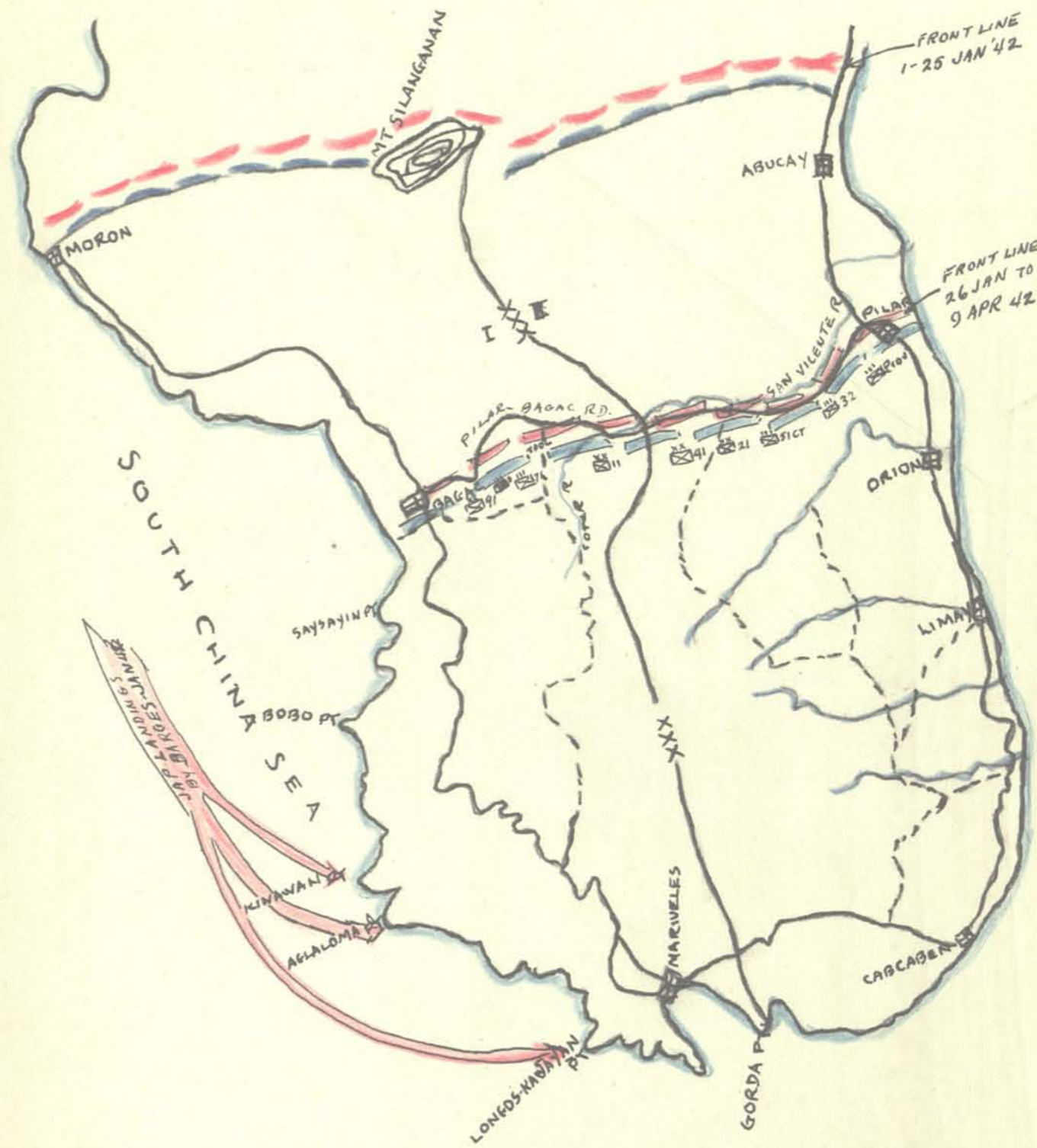




### References

Most of the materials used in the preparation of this monograph were furnished the writer by the Chief, Historical Division, Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Personal knowledge of facts bearing on the operations were also widely used. The writer served as G-4 of the 51st Division (Phil. Army) which executed the delaying actions from Atimonan to Bataan for the South Luzon Force. He was with the "Death March" and was a prisoner of war.



SITUATION MAP C

DEFENSE OF BATAAN

