

Japanese Bombers Fire Manila; Population Calls for Reprisals

At Least 37 Killed and 150 Wounded as Fliers Blast Helpless Area and Shoot Down Fleeing Civilians.

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the Philippine Appeals Court Building, the American Army and Navy Y. M. C. A. Building.

At 2:22 p. m., another salvo of enemy bombs crashed into the walled city as the same group of Japanese raiders circled again. They exploded with a roar around the intendencia, and eye-witnesses reported that Japanese pilots swooped low over the battered city and machine gunned fleeing civilians.

A student was killed and a nun injured as the bombs crashed a mile and a half from the port area.

Priest Helps Fight Blaze

Firemen were battling the blaze at Santo Domingo Church as I went past the blazing towers. Santa Rosa College, built in 1869, was heavily marked by explosive and incendiary bombs. Three aged nuns were being escorted into the street.

A middle-aged priest, his blond hair flying, was helping firemen fight the blaze with weak streams of water, which could not reach the burning towers of the church.

I walked on ruined school books, torn tablets from the desks of children in the convent school, and examination papers which had been bomb-blasted out of the Catholic elementary school across the street from the burning church.

In the port area, the bombing went on until after 3 p. m. Three ships were hit and there was considerable damage to piers. The Japanese appeared to be aiming chiefly at the famous Magellan's landing in the Pasig quarter of the walled city, near ancient Ft. Santiago.

Monument Rises Above Smoke

In that sector they hit the landing and knocked the rear superstructure off of a ship nearby. A small tug also was destroyed.

But the slender, towering monument to Ferdinand Magellan—who discovered the Philippines in 1521 and brought Christianity and western civilization to these islands—remained unscathed on the landing as the enemy bombers turned back toward their base. The monument rose above the smoke and the wreckage like a symbol of the courage and determination of Manila.

An eyewitness saw eight killed and 50 wounded taken from Santo Domingo Catholic Church. They were gathered for daily prayer when the bomb hit, and it was believed only a few near the rear exit escaped. The church was almost destroyed.

"We Can Take It" Filipinos Say

Acting Philippine Budget Commissioner Pedro Pedrosa was injured when a bomb struck the Treasury Building, which houses the mint. It is believed he will lose his right leg.

Three watchmen were killed when they were buried under the debris of silver coin, which was strewn over a large area. Other governmental officials escaped injury by taking refuge in a vault.

One bomb had penetrated the top floor of the mint, exploding coins like bullets across the room.

Twenty-four watchmen had just left the building before the bomb struck.

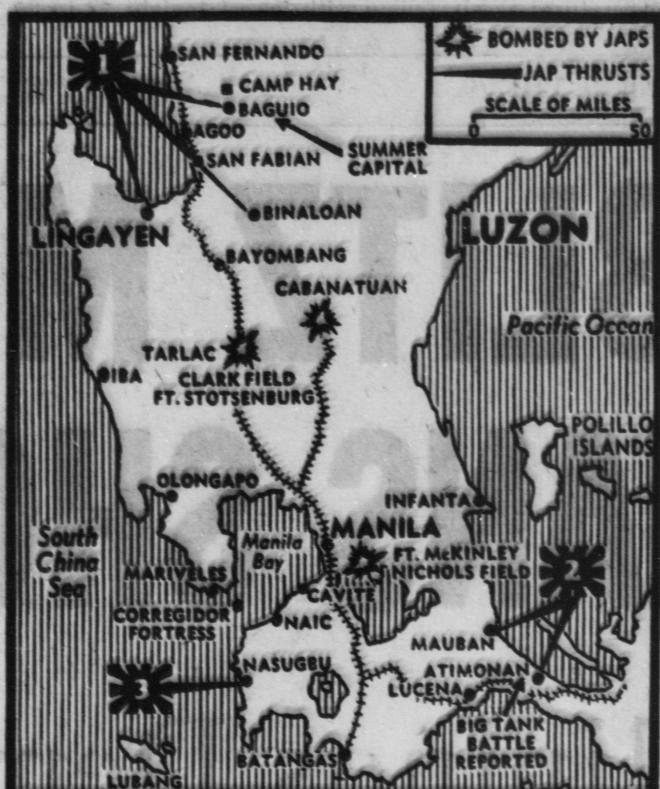
As they ended their raid and left their dead and maimed and ruined homes and buildings, the Japanese aviators dropped leaflets which said they were not warring on Filipinos, only on Americans.

Had No Time to Duck

Firemen raced to the walled city area as horrified, dazed townspeople started running through the crowded streets, carrying such armfuls of their most valuable belongings as they had been able to grab.

I was seeking missing Americans, caught in the port area where as usual the Japanese had concentrated their bomb fire during the early part of the raid.

At the moment I was talking on the telephone to Staff



Japanese forces now hold Lucena, 55 miles southwest of Manila. A tank battle is raging at nearby Atimonan. North of Manila U. S. and Filipino forces are making a stand 100 miles away.

Correspondent Rodolfo Nazareno. He told me that the bomb blasts shook the United Press Building crazily.

"For a while we thought it was the end but it was all over before we had time to duck," he said.

Flying shrapnel from this blast crashed through the windows of the United Press Building and one fragment went through the staff sleeping quarters on the sixth floor, overlooking the Pasig River.

Staff members were getting out the story when a second blast shook the building, and the raiders swept away. The Japanese planes were 10,000 feet up.

Driver of Car Missing

The building in which I was standing rocked as bombs started dropping in residential areas.

I ran for my automobile but the driver was missing and he had locked the car doors. I found him after a time and headed for headquarters of the U. S. Far Eastern forces.

Soon I had to abandon my car to push my way through pitiful hordes of half hysterical evacuees, worrying mostly for their children, not themselves, scurrying along with walling babies in their arms, some carrying bundles, a few suitcases.

Making my way through the Philippines, Spaniards and Chinese who largely form the 100,000 population of the walled city area, I came to the scene of destruction.

Of one flight of nine Japanese planes over the port area, two disappeared—how, it was not known, since there were no guns to hinder them.

Three men were believed aboard the freighter which sank. Unofficial reports had put the casualties at 30 persons killed or wounded in yesterday's six raids.

Three Fires Burn All Night

Three fires burned throughout an uneasy night. There were faint explosions from the burning Pandacan district on the Pasig River at the southeastern edge of the city.

Another fire had been burning for 36 hours at Cavite naval base and a third at the northern end of the city where a ship, struck during yesterday's raids, was burning still.

It was learned that the authorities intended to investigate the

JAPS 55 MILES FROM CAPITAL

Tank Battle Southeast of Manila Looms; New Lines Formed to the North.

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Philippines forces, heavily outnumbered, are fighting a furious new Japanese invasion drive on Manila from the north where they have withdrawn to a stronger line 100 miles from the capital.

The combined defense forces, now directed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur personally after his withdrawal from his Manila command headquarters, faced driving Japanese troops who were attacking regardless of heavy losses and were receiving a steady flow of reinforcements from transport fleets off the northwest and southwest Luzon coasts.

With the departure of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander-in-chief; President Manuel L. Quezon and Francis Bowes Sayre, United States High Commissioner, the Manila area was now in the hands of Jorge B. Vargas, newly designated Prime Minister, and three other men of an emergency cabinet—Vice President Sergio Osmeña, acting as Health, Welfare and Education Minister; Supreme Court Justice Jose Abad Santos, Secretary for Finance, Agriculture and Commerce, and Maj. Gen. Basilio Valdez, National Defense, Public Works, Communications and Labor Minister. All other leaders had left.

FIVE BURN TO DEATH

ONEIDA, Wis., Dec. 27 (U. P.)—Five persons, a mother and four children, burned to death today in a fire which destroyed their small frame home. Three other members of the family were burned severely.

Washington Calling

SLOW JAPANESE PUSH IN MALAYA

British Reinforce Lines as Battle Rages 300 Miles North of Singapore.

SINGAPORE, Dec. 27 (U. P.)—British Empire and Japanese commands threw powerful reinforcements today into a ferocious battle on the Perak River line 300 miles north of Singapore where the Japanese had sought—so far vainly—to drive across the Enggor bridge, oblivious to heavy casualties.

Dispatches indicated that the entire Japanese advance had been slowed down.

Fresh troops, especially trained in tropical fighting, were sent into the British lines to relieve many of their comrades who were exhausted after having fought almost constantly, day and night. The Japanese were believed to have reinforced their lines considerably.

It was believed here that the Japanese had set Port Swettenham, 125 miles down the coast from the present front and 200 miles northwest of Singapore, as their immediate hands.

Food control authorities moved to insure efficient distribution and conservation of food stocks in the Singapore area in order to avoid mistakes such as had caused a shortage in Penang Island, now in Japanese hands.

Pressure Put on Borneo

Food stocks were dispensed to key points and emergency supplemental distribution measures were adopted, with special attention to outlying districts. Sales of flour, salt, sugar, milk and butter were restricted and a one-course meal program was adopted.

It was reported in reliable quarters that several Japanese had been arrested on the water front as they sought to escape in a small boat during the last air raid alert.

Official reports received here of increased Japanese activity in the Sarawak area was believed by many to mean that the Japanese for the present were concentrating on strengthening their position in Borneo, even at the cost of their Malaya drive, in hope that by establishing a firm position they might effectively extend a pincer arm around Malaya.

Dutch Fliers Sink 2 More Jap Ships

BATAVIA, N. E. I., Dec. 27 (U. P.)—A large Japanese transport and a lighter have been sunk by Dutch Army planes in a new attack on Japanese shipping off Kuching, Sarawak, island of Borneo, the Netherlands High Command said today.

It brought to 17 the number of Japanese vessels sunk by the Dutch. Several have been damaged.

GENERAL VICTIM OF 'MUST WIN' POLICY

LONDON, Dec. 27 (U. P.)—Informed quarters today regarded Chief Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, replaced as British commander in the Far East by Lieut. Gen. Sir Henry Pownall, as another victim of the policy: "If one man can't do it, get another who can."

Observers agreed that Pownall, 53, and one of Britain's youngest generals, had taken over tremendous responsibility under extremely difficult conditions. Foremost among his problems is to decide where on the Malay Peninsula the British troops will make a last ditch defense of Singapore.

But not the least of his worries is the criticism of Australia and some circles in Britain that army and governmental red tape and lack of co-ordination have partly been responsible for Japanese successes.

Australian criticism, in particular, has been vehement. It has denounced local authorities in Malaya for failing to carry out a scorched earth policy in the peninsula's valuable rubber and rice plantations, two of the richest prizes that can fall to the Japanese.

A dispatch to the newspaper

Ivestia said that Russians smashed

the rear of the 13th army corps.

The commanding German general departed so hastily that he left his

tunic and sword in a peasant's hut.

Dead Litter Field

Front dispatches said the German retreat from Volkov was disordered and that unburied dead and abandoned guns and trucks littered the territory over which the Germans had fled.

Gen. Ivan Boldin's push toward

Kaluga on the left flank and Gen.

Rokossovsky's movement westward

from Volkovoklamsk appear to be a

synchronized campaign to wipe out the last German salient.

The fierceness of the battle on the

Moscow front was indicated by a

report that the Russians had

slaughtered over 10,000 Germans in

four days.

The recapture of Kaluga, an im-

portant junction on the Moscow-

Briansk and Tula-Smolensk rail-

roads appeared imminent, as Bol-

din's forces crossed the frozen Okra

River, southeast of Moscow and took

an important town on the west

bank.

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Wood Back in Style

YOU CAN count on two new

merchant ships a day by mid-

summer. Mass-production meth-

ods have cut building time to just

half that of 1918.

Jobs, Not Pensions

OLD PEOPLE can expect jobs,

not pensions, in 1942. Civil Ser-

vice Commission is hunting appli-

cants up to 60 for some jobs, no

limit for others. Civil Aero-

nautics Administration is start-

ing to train older men and women

for field jobs; will hire no one

young enough for military service.

Another source of workers for

defense industry: War casualties

both military and civilian, will get

rehabilitation treatment, instruc-

tion designed to let them release

others for military service.

DOPE HERE is that the Japs

are in for surprise if they try for

beachheads in Dutch East Indies.

Dutch have been getting de-

liveries, for months, of a new

semi-automatic rifle from a U. S.

arms firm; most of their army

has been equipped with the rifle,

taught how to use it. Rifle oper-

ates on a different principle from

the U. S. Garand, but experts say

it's just as deadly.

Surprise for Japs?

ADD WARTIME transformations:

Senator McKellar, enthusiastic

peacetime advocate of spending,

is leading Byrd Com-