

LULL REPORTED BY M'ARTHUR

'Calm Before Storm' Seen
As Japs Prepare for
Luzon Finish Fight.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (U. P.).—Powerful Japanese forces massed against Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forward lines today, the War Department reported, in obvious preparation for an all-out assault on Bataan Province and Corregidor fortress.

An ominous calm before-the-storm atmosphere was indicated in the terse official communique, the first word on Gen. MacArthur's stand to be made public in 24 hours. Devoting almost their entire attention to redistribution of their forces and the movement up to forward areas of strong reinforcements, the Japanese virtually ignored Gen. MacArthur's positions as they concentrated on preparations for the climax of their month-old campaign to win domination of the Philippines.

Gen. MacArthur's report said that "combat operations have dwindled to desultory skirmishes in various sections of the front" for the second day running.

Bombings Suspended

How long the calm may continue was not certain but it was expected to be brief and the communique reported that "the enemy continues to move troops into the forward areas, apparently in preparation for renewed attack in force."

Even the Japanese air force suspended its heavy bombardment of Corregidor and other fortified American positions and confined itself to reconnaissance flights.

The Navy reported the Japanese had suffered additional losses at sea—the sinking of a transport and three 10,000-ton cargo carriers by an American submarine—but there was no hint of relaxation in their efforts to come to close grips with Gen. MacArthur's valiant corps.

Fight for Manila Bay

The chosen battleground was Manila Bay—the same battleground where the crack of Admiral George Dewey's big guns 44 years ago signalled America's coming of age as a world power.

But this time it was not a battle of seapower—a battle of Dewey's spanking new warships against the rotting Spanish fleet. It was a clash of spectacular new weapons, tanks, quick-firing guns and, most spectacular of all, the airplane.

Military men said frankly that the course of the battle depends almost wholly on the price the Japanese are willing to pay in casualties. Outnumbering Gen. MacArthur hugely and with complete dominance of the air, the Japanese, it was said, might decide to disregard the cost in killed and wounded and throw their troops in recklessly in an attempt to bring the battle to a quick conclusion.

Awaits Carmelite Habit



Miss Magdalene Schmitt, dressed in the symbolic white of the Bride of Christ, will be invested as a Carmelite nun tomorrow.

The Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, will celebrate the mass for the ceremonies at which Miss Magdalene Schmitt will be clothed in the habit of the Carmelite tomorrow at 9:30 a. m.

Elmer Steffen will direct the music and the Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Donnelly, S. J., rector of West Baden College, will deliver the sermon at the services in the monastery on the Cold Spring Road.

Miss Schmitt will kneel with a lighted candle in her hand in view of the congregation during the investiture. For an hour preceding and through Saturday, Sunday and Monday, she will talk with visitors in the monastery speak room. Afterward she will retire from the world to lead her life of labor and prayer as Sister Magdalene of the Sacred Heart.

Present at the ceremonies will be Miss Schmitt's brothers, the Rev. Fr. Simeon Schmitt of Delphi, Ind., Brother Theophane, C. S. C., Dennis Schmitt, S. J., of West Baden; Messrs. and Mesdames Hubert Schmitt, Aloysius Schmitt and Francis Schmitt, all of Decatur, and Mr. Joseph Schmitt and Mrs. Schmitt of Ft. Recovery, O., and their respective families.

Other guests are to be the Rev. Fr. Thomas Durkin of Ft. Wayne and the Rev. Fr. Roland Simonitch, C. S. C., and the Rev. Fr. Joseph Seimetz of Decatur.

Miss Schmitt's parents, both dead, were Mr. and Mrs. Dionysius Schmitt of Decatur.

HILL TALKED TO FISH BEFORE JURY QUIZ

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (U. P.).—Testimony read in District Court today disclosed that George Hill, second secretary of Rep. Hamilton Fish (R. N. Y.) sought and obtained the advice of his employer before appearing at Grand Jury hearings last fall which resulted in Hill's indictment on two counts of perjury.

The subpoena served on Hill last October required that he produce eight mail sacks containing reprints of isolationist speeches from the Congressional Record. The Grand Jury was investigating propaganda.

Hill appeared before the jury without the mail bags and, when asked what effort he had made to obtain them, replied:

"I showed my telegram, or my subpoena, to Congressman Fish and Mr. Fish immediately got on the phone and came away from the phone and told me to appear at this hearing."

Hill's Grand Jury testimony, read at his perjury trial, quoted him also as saying that Rep. Fish had made a telephone call to the foreman of the Grand Jury prior to the secretary's appearance.

The mail bags referred to were part of a group of 20 sought by the Grand Jury as evidence in its investigation of Axis propagandists.

WPA TO SEND BILL TO BROWN

Justice Department May
Be Embarrassed if It
Has to Collect.

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Although the Justice Department has dismissed the WPA fraud indictment against Arthur V. Brown of Indianapolis, the Government plans to collect from Mr. Brown and others for the WPA labor and materials involved in the case, it was learned here yesterday.

At WPA headquarters, it was reported that John K. Jennings, Indiana WPA Administrator, has been instructed to collect from Mr. Brown, Miss Elizabeth Claypool and certain companies whatever may be due the United States for WPA work done on their land.

Mr. Jennings, it was said, will determine the amount, which is expected to run into many thousands.

The WPA office here revealed that similar action had been taken in the case of Arthur F. Eickhoff, who was acquitted last year by a Federal jury in a similar case.

Failed to Pay \$79,000

Mr. Eickhoff, it was reported, was billed by WPA for something over \$79,000. He failed to pay and bill was referred to the General Accounting Office as "uncollectable."

If any civil action should be taken to collect from Mr. Eickhoff, Mr. Brown or Miss Claypool, it would have to be filed by the Justice Department, which would find itself slightly embarrassed, not only because it lost the Eickhoff case in court but also because it sent a representative to Indianapolis to dismiss the Claypool case.

Regardless of the Justice Department's attitude, the WPA officials contend they ought to be paid for the WPA work done on private land.

SCHOOL STRIKE ENDS; 2 ON BOARD TO QUIT

BICKNELL, Ind., Jan. 9 (U. P.).—Striking Bicknell High School pupils returned to class this morning following an announcement that John A. Lister and Ewell R. Philippe, members of the school board who successfully sought the ouster of Harold Axe as Superintendent of Schools, would offer their resignations Monday.

The demand that members of the board resign was expedited at a mass meeting last night when a petition, signed by 2610 citizens demanding the retention of Mr. Axe as Superintendent, was presented to the council.

The students walked out of their classrooms last Tuesday, protesting the ouster of Mr. Axe.

PARK HOUSE REOPENS ON LIMITED BASIS

The Eagle Creek Community house, Grande Ave. and W. Michigan St., closed recently because of small attendances, has been ordered reopened on a limited schedule by the Park Board.

The order followed conferences with West Side civic leaders who protested the closing. Park Board members agreed to reopen the building for a specified program of meetings and youth classes. Among those who protested the closing were Mrs. Anna Owens, Mrs. Ora Arnold and Mrs. Harry McMann, members of the Tibbs Ave. Eagle Creek Civic League.

CITY MAN NOW HEADS M'GUFFEY SOCIETIES

The presidency of the National Federation of McGuffey Societies has shifted to Indianapolis. J. H. Newlin, 2019 Park Ave., who has been vice president of the organization since last summer, succeeded

to the office when its former holder, S. C. Hood, Portsmouth, O., died last month. Mr. Newlin will serve until the annual meeting of the organization next summer. Mr. Newlin has been a member of the Indianapolis McGuffey Society for the last 14 years. The local organization will meet at 1:30 p. m. tomorrow in the War Memorial.

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