

PHILIPPINES LOST: Wainwright a Prisoner With End of Organized ...

By CHARLES HURD Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York Times (1923-Current file); May 7, 1942; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times

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CORREGIDOR: WHERE DEFENDERS OF PHILIPPINES MADE LAST STAND



A view from the island fortress, looking across the narrow strait that separates it from Bataan Peninsula. Funnel and masts of a sunken ship are visible.

The New York Times (U. S. Marine Corps)

PHILIPPINES LOST

Wainwright a Prisoner With End of Organized Resistance on Isles

ONLY GUERRILLAS REMAIN

Japanese Gain Use of Manila Bay Harbor for Fleet and Can Release Their Forces

By CHARLES HURD
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 6—Organized resistance to the Japanese in the Philippine Islands ended today with the surrender of a starving force of not more than 10,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor and the satellite island forts named Hughes, Drum and Frank.

Lieut. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright notified the War Department that "resistance of our troops has been overcome" and that "terms are being arranged covering the capitulation of the island forts in Manila Bay." This was the language of the War Department here.

A few hours earlier General Wainwright described a final six-day cannonading of the island, supplemented by aerial bombardment, in which the Japanese used many new guns to prepare the way for landing parties that yesterday crossed the three-mile strip of water separating Corregidor and Bataan Peninsula.

Surrender of the fortress closed the most tragic chapter of American participation in World War II, but this conclusion had been expected almost from the time the Japanese invaded the Philippines.

Guerrilla Warfare to Go On

There was every expectation, however, that the Japanese would face constant guerrilla warfare in their occupation of the islands. From Luzon in the north to Mindanao in the south are numerous bands of American officers and soldiers and native forces who may well support themselves indefinitely with the aid of friendly groups of natives.

No definite statement as to the total number of Americans left on the Manila Bay island forts at the time of surrender was forthcoming, but the Navy said in a communiqué that it counted on Corregidor about 175 officers and 2,100 enlisted Navy personnel and 70 officers and 1,500 men of the Marine Corps. General Wainwright had reported only that casualties had been very heavy in the last few days of fighting. [A United Press dispatch from Washington said 3,000 civilians were on Corregidor Island.]

These sailors and marines, who were ordered from Bataan by General Wainwright before the peninsula forces capitulated on April 9, were serving under Captain Kenneth M. Hoeffel of the Navy and Colonel Samuel L. Howard of the Marine Corps. The fall of Corregidor removed the famous Fourth Marine Regiment from the active rolls. The regiment was removed from Shanghai two weeks before the start of the war on Dec. 7 and transferred to the Philippines.

Small Warships Destroyed

In the final hours of fighting on the beaches of Corregidor the Navy completed destruction of small warships already damaged by Japanese bombs and shells, with the result that not even a small boat was left for salvage by the invaders.

"Captain Hoeffel reported," a Navy communiqué stated, "that the minesweeper Tanager and the river gunboat Oahu had been sunk by enemy gunfire from Bataan and that the minesweeper Pigeon had been sunk by bombers. The river gunboat Luzon and the minesweeper Quail were severely damaged by gunfire and were sunk by United States forces when capture appeared imminent. All local small craft in the vicinity were demolished by our forces."

In another message, the Navy re-

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10,000 PRISONERS IN PHILIPPINE FORTS

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port added, Captain Hoeffel "joined his officers and men in sending a last message of loyalty, devotion and good cheer to their country, their families and their friends." War Department officials told reporters that undoubtedly General

Wainwright was on Corregidor Island when it fell. One of the last messages signed personally by the commander, a communiqué stated, described the final heavy bombardment of the island on May 5 and the sharp direct fighting.

"Enemy artillery, including 240-millimeter guns, firing from many new positions," said the communiqué, "shelled Corregidor and other island forts throughout the day. Our guns replied with counter-battery fire and shelled truck columns in Bataan.

"Again, for the fourth consecu-

tive day, there were thirteen separate air attacks on Corregidor. The artillery and air attacks were a continuation of the operations against the forts which began after the fall of Bataan on April 9. They increased in intensity as the Japanese installed heavy batteries on the slopes of Mount Mariveles in Bataan. The defenders were greatly handicapped in their counter-battery fire by lack of aerial observation.

"Beginning on April 29 the Japanese artillery fire became much

heavier and from then until May 5 there was little respite from artillery and air attacks. The artillery fire proved more disastrous than the aerial bombardment.

"During the last few days there were many casualties among our troops and the damage to military installations was severe. The landing was preceded by a heavy artillery attack on the beach defense which swept away the barbed-wire entanglements and blasted machine-gun installations and other centers of resistance. The Japanese used a large number of steel barges in the short water trip from the tip of Bataan Peninsula to Corregidor."

Official spokesmen here recognized the Philippine campaign as one of the outstanding defeats suffered by the United States in the history of its wars. The best available compilations indicate that the Japanese have captured about 42,000 soldiers and sailors of the United States and Philippine Armies, including those lost on Bataan.

From a military standpoint, the Japanese have wiped out effective resistance on the only soil still held by the United Nations forces north of Australia and west of Hawaii, except for scattered garrisons that hold Midway, Johnston and perhaps other small islands.

Probably more important, from the Japanese standpoint, is the fact that the end of the organized Philippine campaign certainly will release large quantities of assault troops, bombers, artillery and other supplies for use in other theatres of war.

The great feat accomplished by the Philippine defenders in their long resistance, and their survival long after the capitulation of Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, Sumatra and Java, lay in the fact that as long as they continued fighting they held in the Philippines heavy forces that could not be sent elsewhere. It is assumed here that the Filipinos will continue every form of possible resistance, and will try to occupy large Japanese forces.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull joined with many other officials in paying tribute to the long and gallant fight. "Corregidor and

Bataan," he said, "will live forever in the memory of Americans. They stand for reverses that are but preludes to victory. The heroism and glorious sacrifice of their defenders there are the fire in which the soul of America is being tempered into invincible steel."

Senator Tom Connally of Texas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, urged that any surviving forces in the Philippines be removed at once, "providing we have the ships and resources."

Senator David I. Walsh of Massachusetts, chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, remarked:

"It is a temporary setback; I am sure it is only temporary."