

BATAAN TORTURERS TRAPPED ON LEYTE

MacArthur Says He Will 'Get'
Japanese Who Did 'Dirty Work'
in Fighting in 1942

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WITH GENERAL MacARTHUR IN THE PHILIPPINES, Oct. 20—The Americans and Filipinos who died so gallantly in the dark days of 1942 will sleep easier tonight, for here on Leyte we are fighting the Japanese division that did the "dirty work" on Bataan.

Before going ashore from the cruiser Nashville a few hours behind the assault waves of American forces, Gen. Douglas MacArthur told me:

"I am particularly anxious to get at the division that is on Leyte. It's the Sixteenth, the outfit that did the dirty work at Bataan. They've been living off the fat of the land for more than two years and I believe they'll be a little softer now.

"But soft or not, we'll get them."

MacArthur Confident

Talking informally aboard the cruiser over a chocolate soda, General MacArthur said tough fighting might lie ahead before the Philippines were freed of the enemy, but he left no doubt that the Leyte operation sealed the fate of the Japanese on that island. He indicated no time would be lost in following up advantages gained in the present move and that American losses would not be heavy.

Throughout the voyage, General MacArthur, returning at last to gain his revenge for Bataan and Corregidor, scorned precautions, as usual, for his personal safety. He was asked if he wanted a lifebelt.

"No, thank you," he replied. "I have too much faith in this ship for that."

Despite the compliment to a ship he considers one of the most efficient in the United States Navy, military men closest to the General expressed belief that his disregard of personal danger stemmed from an implicit belief that it is his destiny to liberate the Philippines and that nothing can happen to prevent it.

Japanese Caught Napping

"We have achieved complete surprise in the fullest military sense," General MacArthur said during the informal discussion. "The Japs expected an attack in Mindanao or the northern Philippines. Their best divisions have been concentrated in Mindanao and their reinforcements have been sent there.

"Our air strikes were made there and Admiral Halsey's strikes were to the north. There are about 225,000 enemy combat troops in the Philippines. Our Leyte landing will cut them in two. We will have losses, but they will not be large."

General MacArthur said the Japanese had little more than one division on Leyte, and American naval and air power would make it impossible for them to reinforce the island.

The trip to the Philippines was uneventful. General MacArthur was completely relaxed. His plans had been made. With him was a skeleton staff and his offices were set up in a cabin.

Miles beyond us was an unbroken stream of aircraft carriers and other warships.

Even as the hour of landing drew near, General MacArthur was unruffled. He slept well, ate a hearty breakfast, then went briefly on deck smoking his familiar corn-cob pipe.

Has Nap Before Landing

Then he napped for about an hour. About fifteen minutes before the scheduled landing at 10 A. M. the cruiser moved in toward the beach.

The general then went to the bridge. We could see shells from battleships exploding in the hills behind the prospective beachheads. At 9:58 the first waves of landing craft hit the shore ahead of schedule.

Ten minutes later word was flashed back that the troops were 500 yards inland and advancing through open country without opposition.

Satisfied that everything was going according to schedule, General MacArthur went to his cabin

for an early luncheon preparatory to going ashore.

With him in the landing barge were Filipino President Sergio Osmena; Brig. Gen. Carlos Romulo, Resident Commissioner of the Philippines; Lieut. Gen. Richard K. Sutherland, American Chief of Staff who left the Philippines in 1942 with General MacArthur, and Lieut. Gen. George Kenney, Commander of the Far East Air Forces.

A bright sun was shining.

General MacArthur sat upright at the stern with General Sutherland, President Osmena, General Kenney and General Romulo standing just below him.

As he sat down the General remarked to General Sutherland with a broad smile: "Well, believe it or not, we're here."

General MacArthur left Corregidor aboard a tiny P-T boat that scurried from the islands. He re-

turned as the leader of a vast armada that defied challenge.

He escaped the Philippines to Australia in a Flying Fortress. He returned under skies swarming with American planes.

He left the Philippines with hardly a dozen men—forced to leave behind him for death or imprisonment the thousands trapped on Bataan. He returned as commander of a force of thousands, which will be followed by as many more thousands as it takes to rescue the Pearl of the Pacific from her captors.