Wainwright Story

Americans Fought Stubbornly But Hopelessly In '41

"It was hard for an American to retreat": Men like these Philippine Scouting manning an anti-aircraft gun were among the pitiably inadequate forces who fought hard under General Wainwright to stem the Japanese invasion.

(Seventh article of the series in which Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright gives the first official eyewitness account of the fall of the Philippines, and the dread days that lay beyond for his brave but hopelessly outmanned North Luzon fighters.)

By GEN. JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT

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GENERAL MacARTHUR'S orders to withdraw my men to Bataan came at a time when my North Luzon force of approximately 28,000 men—25,000 of them still untrained—were scattered over a considerable area. The average distance we had to withdraw was nearly 150 miles. But first those units had to be rounded up to assess the kind of semi-solid front we would need for the delaying actions we would be called upon to fight.

One such delaying action assigned to us was to hold fast on the line of the Rio Grande de Pampanga to enable General Jones' South Luzon force to withdraw northward before the Jap attack in the south, swing around Manila Bay and duck into Bataan.

The Japs coming down from the North after us put considerable pressure on us and made more difficult the task of shepherding thousands of bewildered and inexperienced men into position for the withdrawal. They hit the retreating remnants of Col. Bonnett's old force and further demoralized them. They hit the 72d Division so hard that it drove that undermanned force right past Binalonan, where the battle-weary 26th Cavalry was refitting, thus making the 26th our chief frontline force again.

On the morning of Dec. 24, after issuing the orders to withdraw toward Bataan, I went up to Binalonan believing that Brig. Gen. Clyde A. Selleck, the 71st Division's commander, would be there.

Binalonan lies just east of the main highway. An old and rarely used road runs more or less parallel to the main highway northward and leads into Binalonan directly. For some reason or other I chose the old road, and by doing so just missed being captured or killed.

GENERAL NARROWLY MISSED JAP TANKS

As I was nearing the town, a platoon of four or five tanks rode down the main highway about 200 yards to my left, going south. They were Jap tanks. My dusty Packard sedan would have offered small resistance to them if I had encountered them head-on, on the main road.

I got into the village aware that at least some elements of the enemy were now between me and Bataan, but could not find Gen. Selleck. Nor could I find any 71st Division troops.

But the 26th Cavalry was there, with little Col. Pierce right out in the thick of furious combat with the vanguard of the main Jap force. The 26th had been in action since daylight, protecting the retreat of the 71st to the Agno. By the time I reached it, the 26th was reduced to not more than 450 men.

I ordered Pierce to get his truck train and his wounded men out as quickly as possible and hold his position as long as he safely could and still be able to withdraw his remaining men. When the time came to withdraw, he would back up to the Agno, fifteen miles below him, cross the bridge, destroy it and hold the south side of the river.

CAVALRY LIVED UP TO FINE TRADITION

Pierce held that position at Binalonan against overwhelming odds until 3:30 on the afternoon of Dec. 24, by which time he had forced the Japs to deploy the advance guard of their main column and to begin the deployment of the whole main assault body.

Here was true cavalry delaying action, fit to make a man's heart sing. Pierce that day upheld the best traditions of the cavalry service, and his action led to his being raised to the rank of brigadier general.

I stayed at Binalonan with him for two or three hours and then returned to my Alcala headquarters. En route I passed along the south bank of the Agno and as I crossed the main north - south highway at Carmen I noted that Jap planes had bombed the mile-long bridge over the Agno between Carmen and Villasis. They had destroyed the south span of the vital bridge, blowing it off its abutment.

It was a time for cursing our luck, because the Eleventh Division would have to cross that bridge on the night of Dec. 24-25 in its withdrawal southward.

But while I was standing there, viewing the damage, Col. Skerry, my engineer chief, loomed out of nowhere. He was already making plans for temporary repair of the bridge. At the same time he was having charges placed under the undamaged part of the bridge so he would be ready to blow it as soon as the Eleventh got across, or blow it if the Japs got to the river before the Eleventh did.

From that point I got in touch with my Alcala headquarters and ordered it moved back to Bamban 20 miles below the base of Lingayen Gulf. I told my operations officer, my signal officer and a few enlisted men to wait at Alcala for me.

MEMORIES OF OTHER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

I reached Alcala on the evening of Dec. 24. Christmas Eve always was something of an event around our home in the good days, and now I found my mind going back over those memories of a Christmas tree, the arrangement of our boy's toys, the carefully wrapped packages for my wife, and all the things that go with a family on that night.

So I got in touch by phone with Necker at RCA in Manila. He was closing up. The city had been declared an open city. But he was kind enough to get through a message to Adele.

I remember it because it was the last time I was able to wireless her directly for three awful years.

I was hot, dirty and hungry from the day's fighting, worrying and traveling. But the food which my headquarters commandant was supposed to send up from Bamban upon his arrival there failed to come. We went to bed that night without dinner.

On Christmas morning, 1941, a tank officer came past my skeleton headquarters and gave us a Christmas present. It was a can of beans. Our little force, including Cols. Frank Nelson and Josh Stansell, split it up. It was Christmas breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as our Christmas Eve dinner—and was mightily appreciated.

My withdrawal plan toward Bataan was divided into five phases, designated as D1, D2, D3, D4 and D5.

D1 called for a withdrawal to a line along Urdaneta, San Carlos and Aguilar, about midway between the base of Lingayen Gulf and the Agno. D2 was a line behind the Agno. O3 reached from San Jose to Santa Ignacio and ran through Gerona, 16 miles farther South. D4 reached from Cabanatuan through Zaragosa, La Paz and Tarlac to the high ground west of Tarlac. D5 stretched across the broad valley leading down from Lingayen Gulf from Bamban

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

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LAVAL DES AS TRAITOR BEFORE FIRING SQUAD

Ship Cargoes Moving With Strike's End

Bay State Rail System Seized

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cargoes tied up for two weeks in New York harbor began to move today as AFL longshoremen returned to work to clear the port of more than 400 strike-marooned vessels.

The dockworkers' return, along with state seizure of the struck Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway system, cut the total of persons off the job over the nation because of labor troubles below 400,000, lowest in several weeks.

OTHERS STILL OUT

Principal unsettled controversies involved more than 200,000 miners in six states, 61,000 Northwest lumber workers and 3,000 to 7,000 motion picture workers.

Joseph P. Ryan, lifetime president of the AFL longshoremen, said the men "are all going back to work" and that if he received word a majority were back "I will get the committee together and we may resume negotiations with the New York Shipping Association today."

The number on strike had been estimated at between 35,000 and 60,000. The issue was inclusion in a new contract of a standardized weight for cargo netloadings.

In Hollywood, scene of a prolonged AFL jurisdictional dispute involving between 3,000 and 7,000 motion picture workers, the AFL Screen Actors Guild have limited support to the walkout.

Heretofore strictly neutral, the powerful guild instructed its 8,000 members they were not obliged to cross any mass picket line or subject themselves to possible involvement in violence.

The dispute started 32 weeks ago over claims of two rival AFL organizations upon rival decorators for collective bargaining purposes. Herbert K. Sorrell, strike leader, said the walkout no longer was an inter-AFL factional dispute. He declared the representation issue had been decided by an NLRB election but that there still remained the issue of returning strikers to their jobs without discrimination.

LONG STRIKE ENDS

A long strike in Pottstown, Pa., was settled at the Spver Manufacturing company. 1,850 persons returned to work after having been out since Aug. 20 in a dispute over rehiring war veterans. The CIO United Automobile Workers said the veterans had low seniority rights and that "super seniority" workers were being dismissed. The company and union said all issues "were ironed out to the best interests of all concerned" but did not say what the issues were.

Gov. Maurice J. Tobin of Massachusetts ordered state seizure of the railways system when a strike of 1,800 employees tied up transportation for more than 1,000,000 patrons.

—Tobin acted under special emergency powers granted by

See CARGOES MOVE on page 7-A

CARIBBEAN CHIEF — Lt. Gen. Willis D. Crittenberger, above, Indiana native, is new chief of the Caribbean Defense Command and Panama Canal Department, succeeding Lt. Gen. George H. Brett, who has reverted to inactive status. Crittenberger previously commanded the IV Corps in the Mediterranean theater.

Java Truce Offer Made

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Hubertus Van Mook, Lieutenant Governor of the Dutch East Indies, offered today to negotiate a truce with leaders of Indonesian unrest, including Sekarno, self-styled president of the "Indonesian Republic."

Bloody skirmishes were reported in scattered areas of Java. The Nationalists, who declared "a Mohammaden holy war against the Dutch infidels," ordered the seizure of all private property throughout Java.

A. W. L. Tjarda, Van Starkenborgh Stachouwer resigned as Governor General, perhaps in protest to Van Mook's offer to negotiate with Sekarno. The Dutch previously termed Seokarno a Japanese puppet.

Reuters reported that "wildly excited Nationalists" had surrounded 50,000 Dutch women and children in the Batavia area and that these were isolated from Allied troops.

An authoritative London source said the British Government had agreed to make ships available to transfer Dutch troops from Europe to Java.

Maj. Gen. D. C. Hawthorn, British General who commands Allied Occupation Forces in the East Indies, invoked the death penalty in Batavia for looting, sabotage, bearing of arms and refusal to surrender arms. The Nationalists retaliated by ordering a general strike in the city.

Prison Stabbing Death Mystery

NORRISTOWN, Pa.—(AP)—A 20-year-old convict was stabbed to death today with an eight-inch prison blade, Kaye Munshower, chief of Montgomery County detectives, reported.

Munshower said Stanley F. Cohowicz of Old Forge, Pa., serving five to ten years in Graterford branch of Eastern State Penitentiary on a burglary charge, was stabbed in the back while standing in the breakfast line.

A guard, standing 100 feet away, said he was unable to name the assailant and Munshower launched into questioning of the 400 inmates in Cohowicz's cell block.

Nipponese Militarism Wiped Out

Mighty Fighting Force Is Gone

By RUSSELL BRINES

TOKYO — (AP) — Japan slipped quietly and with mingled feelings into military oblivion today as its demobilization was completed on schedule, and for the first time in history these islands held no combat military force, either in fact or in name.

The fighting force of 7,000,000 soldiers and sailors at home and abroad was reduced to nothing.

With the exit of the detested, discredited warlords, Japanese political leaders stepped onto the national stage to put into effect a list of democratic principles prescribed by Allied headquarters.

Prince Fumimaro Konoye, one of Emperor Hirohito's close advisors, said in an interview that "His Majesty is anxious that revisions be made" in the constitution to bring about the reforms decreed by headquarters.

CURSE ON HIROHITO

Konoye, who was boomed as the head of a new political party, added that constitutional revisions under consideration would curb Hirohito's almost unlimited power over his 77,000,000 subjects and give the Diet some supervision over expenditures of the Imperial household. Another being mentioned prominently as a prospective party head was Gen. Kuzushige Ugaki, 77-year-old militarist politician.

Japan's incubator of imperialistic schemes since 1878, the Imperial General Staff Headquarters, was dissolved formally yesterday and the General Staff went out of office today, in accord with Potsdam Declaration terms.

The once proud and powerful Army and Navy Ministries continued to do business but merely as "ministries for demobilization."

Allied headquarters announced that General MacArthur would broadcast to the United States on "military phases of the occupation."

Only a few thousand men remained in active service as Japanese soldiers and sailors. Their job was to finish turning over equipment to the American occupation force, clearing of minefields and processing of service men returning from overseas.

The man in the street generally was glad to see the end of militarism but some displayed shame over defeat.

The few officers and men remaining on duty in the Japanese army will be permitted to wear their uniforms because the war left the country so poor they can get no other clothes. They will lose their military designations and will be known as liaison personnel for demobilization.

Nearly 4,000,000 officers and men, including 1,300,000 Navy personnel, have been demobilized in the home islands. A total of 3,800,000 in both services overseas are returning home in driblets.

Regent Of Greece Said To Have Met Premier

ATHENS—(AP)—Archbishop Damaskinos, regent of Greece, was reported today to have conferred with former Premier Emanuel Tsouderos with a view to entrusting him with the formation of a new Cabinet.

PIERRE LAVAL
Meets a Traitor's Fate

Free Rein Given

Argentine Moves To Form Cabinet

BUENOS AIRES — (AP) — Civilian General Prosecutor Juan Alvarez, was entrusted by President Farrell today with the task of organizing a "Cabinet of notables" to lead Argentina through a Governmental crisis climaxed by the recent resignation of Vice-President Juan Peron.

The 67-year-old prosecutor moved into a key position following his appointment by the President as Minister of the Interior.

Alvarez is reported to have said that he would accept this position in the Cabinet only if he approved of other appointments to fill vacancies in the body. Farrell answered this by giving him freedom to organize a Cabinet of his own choosing.

Already members of the Cabinet are Gen. Eduardo Avalos and Vice Adm. Vernengo Lima.

POSTS OFFERED

Alvarez immediately began the task of filling the vacancies, offering posts to several prominent civilians.

War Minister Avalos announced the liberation of Victorio Codovilla, Communist leader, whom he described as the last political prisoner in the nation.

One of the first moves made by Avolos and Lima after assuming six of the eleven cabinet posts was to issue a decree yesterday reopening the national universities of La Plata, Buenos Aires and Litoral, which were ordered closed by Peru last month following demonstrations against his regime by students.

At the same time all professors and teachers who had been dismissed for supporting the students were ordered deinstated.

Other measures taken simultaneously by the two new strong men of the cabinet included the following:

1. Reinstated federal judge Rodolfo Barraco Marmol of Cordoba who was dismissed Sept. 29 for issuing habeas corpus writs to several political prisoners arrested on Peron's orders.

2. Lifted censorship restrictions recently imposed on the Argentine press.

3. Displayed their control over the nation's armed forces by a drastic shakeup of the army command.

4. Ordered police, who have been concentrated in the center of Buenos Aires, dispersed to other parts of the city.

Vinson Tax Points Made

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary Vinson today advocated a $5,000,000,000 tax reduction for 1946 but opposed House provisions which he said would cut off another $2,000,000,000 in 1947.

The Treasury Secretary testified before the Senate Finance Committee, renewing the recommendations he made originally to the House Ways & Means Committee for a 1946 tax cut of $5,175,000,000.

"The House bill," he said, "grants reductions that are reasonably close to that amount for 1946.

1947 REDUCTIONS

"But without further Congressional action, the provisions of the House bill would operate to grant reductions of more than $7,000,000,000 for the calendar year 1947. It would write into law about $2,000,000,000 of tax reduction over and above the $5,000,000,000 reduction applicable in 1946.

"I believe that we should not today prejudge to this extent the tax needs of 1947."

Vinson laid down two guiding principles in considering tax cuts. The first was that reductions must be limited because of continuing large expenditures which he said will continue "high for many months to come."

Vinson's second point: "The basic objective of tax adjustments at this time is to put us on the high road of peacetime full employment and maximum production. . . From the taxpayer's angle, a large tax is easier to pay with a high income than is a small tax with a low income."

Makes Futile Bid To Cheat Justice With Poison Dose

Executed After Being Restored

By MEL MOST

PARIS — (AP) — Pierre Laval was executed as a traitor to France today after failing to cheat the firing squad by swallowing poison.

The man who collaborated with the Germans as Chief of Government in old Marshal Petain's Vichy regime died from a coup de grace, fired through his ear, when a volley from the firing squad did not kill him.

"VIVE LA FRANCE"

Doctors restored the swarthy traitor from effects of poison taken four hours earlier. He was led to the courtyard of the bleak old Fresnes Prison and died with a cry of "Vive La France" on his lips.

He was refused a final request to give the order for his own death to the execution squad.

Laval refused a proffered blindfold and faced his executioners.

These were his last words:

"It is not the soldiers' fault. They know not what they do. Vive La France!"

The twelve riflemen fired.

Laval fell only to his knees.

COUP DE GRACE

An officer rushed up immediately, aimed his revolver into Laval's ear and fired. The coup de grace dispatched Laval at 12:32 P. M. and he fell dead into the dirt of the courtyard.

A coffin lay near the spot where Laval had pitched forward in death. The body was placed in it swiftly and loaded into a hearse.

Three official cars bearing the prefect of police, the attorney General and the local Police Commissioner accompanied the hearse from the gates of the prison.

The little procession went to nearby Thiais Cemetery and there Laval's coffin was lowered into the ground, close to the grave of Darnard.

Next to Laval's plot was a grave marked:

"Here lies an unknown collaborator."

Quick action by prison physicians apparently was responsible for the failure of Laval's attempt to cheat the firing squad. The execution originally had been scheduled for 9 A. M. (3 A. M. Eastern Standard Time) at Fort de Chatillon, but officials decided

See FIRING SQUAD on page 7-A

850 Japs Believed Lost In Sinking Of Steamers

TOKYO — (AP) — Approximately 850 Japanese were reported by Domei agency as feared lost in the sinking of two steamers by mines in home waters over the week-end.

Only 54 of 600 passengers aboard the Tama Maru were rescued after the ship sank yesterday off Kyushu. The agency said hope was abandoned for missing. The vessel was en route to Hakata from Tyashima.

About 300 were missing from the Kaju Maru, which went down off Kobe Saturday while en route to Takamatsu from Osaka with 500 passengers.

Mecklenburg Casualties

KILLED

S2/C Thomas K. Joyner.

The Horse Stolen

CAMDEN, N. J. — (AP) — John Mortimer, owner of the Schlenagle Manufacturing Co., found notes of advice at his plate of business, ransacked twice over the week-end.

The messages, found at both front and back doors, read, "You shouldn't leave the doors open."

WEATHER

Considerable cloudiness and cooler this afternoon and tonight. Tuesday, fair and cool.

Temperature at 1:30 Today 81
High and Low Last 24 Hours 89 and 57
Sunset Today 5:47
Sunrise Tomorrow 6:21

Judge Angered

War Crimes Defendant Laughed At

By CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN

LUENEBERG —(AP)— A blonde SS woman's testimony that she permitted prisoners to attack a camp spy brought laughter from the audience and a court threat to carry on the Belsen war crimes trial behind closed doors today.

"I am not going to have this court turned into a place where people sit and laugh. If dignity is not maintained we will carry on a closed court," Maj. Gen. H. P. M. Berney, president of the court, declared in a furious voice.

Herta Ehlert, 40-year-old supervisor at Belsen, had testified that the camp spy, Helena Kopper, falsely reported three prisoners possessed concealed jewelry. When a search showed there was no jewelry, the Ehlert woman angrily confronted the prisoners with their accuser.

With gestures, the SS woman described how the prisoners flailed the spy with their fists. A ripple of laughter swept the courtroom and Berney's angry warning followed.

An Expert Is Heard

Bush Says: 'I See No Defense To The Atomic Bomb In Sight'

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Dr. Vannevar Bush testified today "I see no defense to the atomic bomb in sight."

The director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development thus differed in testimony before a Senate committee from a report by the House Naval Committee of "indications that an effective counter measure to atomic bombs has been developed to such an extent that they can be exploded far short of their objectives."

On this point, the top scientist of the group which developed America's war inventions declared:

"There is in my opinion no trick of getting rid of the atomic bomb because it is an atomic bomb."

Bush said the difference between it and ordinary types of bombs is wrapped up in the magnitude of its explosive power.

"If a city can defend itself against any kind of bombing, it can defend itself against the atomic bomb," Bush testified at a Senate military-commerce subcommittee hearing on a bill to set up a national science foundation.

"If a city can stop all aircraft or all rockets," he continued, "then it can prevent the atomic bomb from falling on it. But I can see no basis of defense that is based on the fact that it is an atomic bomb that is being dropped."

ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSES

Bush said anti-aircraft defenses should not be overlooked in future developments. "There were things under way in Germany he said, that might have stopped American mass bombing of Nazi cities if the Germans had had long enough to develop them.

If the Germans had been able to duplicate the proximity fuse developed by this country, Bush said, they might have stopped the bombings.

Senator Fulbright, Democrat, Arkansas, plugged at the point that the best defense might lie in the political field. Bush agreed that everything possible must be done to prevent a future major war.

"I don't think that a future major war would necessarily end civilization," Bush said, "but it would certainly set it back so far that it wouldn't be fun."

Charlotte Returnees

Two more Charlotte soldiers arrived in The States over the week-end on ships docking in New York.

Aboard the SS NYU Victory which docked on Saturday:

T/5 Kenneth B. Scoggins.

Aboard the Frederick Lykes which docked Sunday:

Pfc. Gary W. Kendenhall.

British Repulse Thrust At Saigon

SAIGON, INDO CHINA, Oct. 14—(Delayed)—(AP)—Rebellious Annamites failed in their boldest thrust at the capital today when British troops drove them back from the outskirts of Saigon Airport and repulsed an attempt to cross the Saigon River.

(Singapore radio reported British forces had seized the Saigon Headquarters of the Viet Minh Party, a part of the Nationalist Popular Front in Indo China.)