

# THIS IS MY STORY

By General Jonathan Wainwright

(This is the third article in General Wainwright's own official and dramatic story of the fall of the Philippines, where the 62-year-old hero of Bataan and Corregidor won the world's acclaim for his stand, and its sympathy for his eventual captivity. Today's article deals with the tragic unpreparedness of Wainwright's North Luzon forces on the eve of the Jap strike.)

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I went down to MacArthur's Manila headquarters a few days later to compliment him and ask instructions. He told me to continue training my Philippine Division in combat tactics and added that I would eventually be placed in charge of three new divisions in South Luzon. Grunert was to be given command of the North Luzon force.

One day in September I was staging a field exercise for my Philippine Division when MacArthur drove up in his air-conditioned Chrysler and called me over to the car.

"General Grunert is going to be returned to the States," he said.

I nodded. Then he told me I could have my choice of forces.

## Takes North Luzon.

I thought a moment. "Which do you consider the most important point in the Philippines to defend?" I asked. "Where do you think the main danger is—the place where some distinction can be gained?"

"The North Luzon force, by all means," he answered.

"I'd like that," I said.

"It's yours, Jonathan," MacArthur agreed. "But for the time being I want you to stay with your division and complete the plans for your December maneuvers. In the meantime I'll keep General King up at Fort Stotsenburg to organize things for you."

By Nov. 25 my staff and I completed arrangements for the December maneuvers. The problems had been worked out and the grounds inspected. But those maneuvers, like so many other things, were doomed.

On the morning of Nov. 25, two weeks before Pearl Harbor, MacArthur called me at my Fort McKinley office.

"Jonathan, you'd better get up north and take command of that North Luzon force now," he said. "Forget the maneuvers. How soon can you go?"

"I can go just as quickly as I can walk downstairs and get in my car," I told him.

"Oh, that much rush isn't necessary," he said. "Wait a day or two, and then come down to Manila to see me before you go."

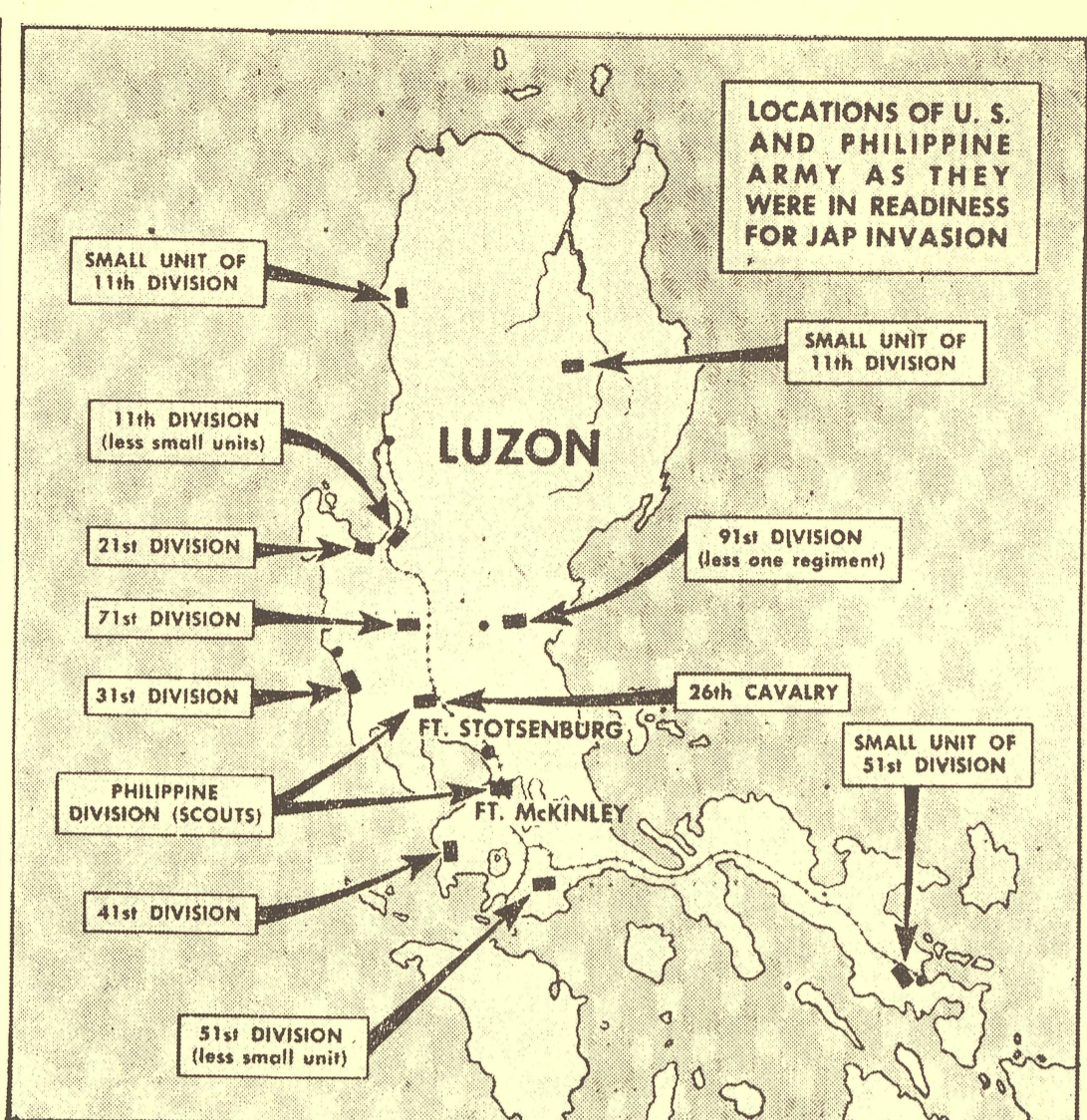
I closed my official affairs at McKinley that day, had my servant, Felemon San Pedro, packed my household goods and personal gear and my aide, Tom Dooley, sent the stuff up to Fort Stotsenburg. Sergeant Carroll took up my three horses. Then I went down to Manila and found MacArthur considerably less eager and tense than I was.

## An April Guess.

He wanted to talk mainly about the organization and training of Philippine Army units, in which work I had been helping since the Philippine Army had begun mobilization. I got over my old point again, about the continuation of training in offensive combat and the need of doing it as fast as possible.

"Jonathan," he said, "you'll probably have until about April to train those troops." I knew MacArthur was talking about war.

Looking back on that prediction, and remembering hindsightedly that the Japs were even at that hour massing to hit us, I'd like to stress this thought: MacArthur believed that nothing was going to hap-



pen before April, 1942. He believed it because he had no official information which would have led him to believe otherwise. He was, I'm sure, completely in the dark about the gravity of diplomatic messages then being exchanged: If MacArthur had known anything, he would have given me—certain to be hit first—what he knew. His April, 1942, prediction was a fair one, I thought.

I drove back to Fort McKinley for the night and on the morning of Nov. 28 went on up to Stotsenburg, which lies 65 miles above Manila.

I thought a lot about MacArthur's April guess. But I knew that even if the Japs held off that long it would still be a tight squeeze. It takes time to turn a mass of conscripts into the kind of army we would need. The minimum time in our Army for training a division is one year, and that presupposes good training conditions and all the necessary gear and able instructors.

On my arrival at Fort Stotsenburg that afternoon to take over my duties, I discovered that General King had been able only to scratch the surface of organizing things for me. The headquarters of the North Luzon force was just about nil. All I had to start with were King's post adjutant, to serve as adjutant general of the new field force, a supply man and a surgeon.

## Reorganization.

I dipped into my old Philippine division and brought out Col. William P. Maher as my chief of staff, got the old division quartermaster, Lt. Col. Alfred Balsam, the commanding officer of the 14th Engineers, Lt. Col. Harry Skerry, and the division's signal officer, Lt. Col. Josh Stansell.

And we went to work. Colonel Maher reported promptly and was of inestimable value in the organization of such a headquarters as we were able to scrape together before the war began. In the last days of November, while Colonel Maher endeavored to get equipment, I paid quick visits to the four divisions assigned to me.

They were the 11th Division, then mobilizing in the Lingayen

Gulf area; the 21st Division, mobilizing just north of Tarlac; the 71st Division, mobilizing at Camp O'Donnell—later a place of unspeakable horror—and the 31st Division, forming itself on the coastal plain west of the Zambales Mountains just north of Subic Bay. The 91st Division, then mobilizing at Cabanatuan, was attached to my command for training and administration, but actually belonged to MacArthur's strategic reserve.

Let me give you a sample of the training status of those divisions on the eve of the attack. Nearly a year later, when Brig. Gen. Clifford Bluemel and I were sitting in rags in a Jap prison camp near Tarlac—where I had futilely planned to stage my December, 1941, maneuvers—he told me the conditions under which his 31st Division was formed.

## Mobilization Sept. 1.

It began mobilization on Sept. 1, a little over three months before it was thrown into tremendous action. The 31st Engineer Battalion was mobilized on Oct. 1. Its 2nd Infantry Regiment was mobilized Nov. 1; the 3rd Infantry Regiment on Nov. 25. Some of its artillery came into being the same day. The majority of its artillery—two battalions of 75 mm. guns—was mobilized after Dec. 8.

Bluemel's infantrymen trained on an average of three or four weeks before being forced to fight. His engineers got no training at all. His artillery never fired a practice shot; indeed, its first shot was aimed in the general direction of the approaching enemy.

His infantry had no combat practice, no combat training, little or no rifle or machine gun practice. There was no infantry-artillery team training.

As was the case with all other Philippine Army divisions which fought under me, the 31st Division did not have a full complement of artillery. What guns it had—British 75 mm.'s and 2.95-inch mountain howitzers—were obsolete. There was little means of transportation for any artillery.

The 71st and 91st Divisions were badly undermanned. They were made up of men from Leyte and Samar and came north minus an infantry regiment each. None of

my divisions had an antitank battalion. None had anything like the required transportation and signal communication equipment. They were all short of ammunition, but with the exception of certain vital types we received a store of this in the nick of time through the efforts of Col. (now Brig. Gen.) Lewis Beebe, MacArthur's assistant chief of staff in charge of supply.

## Short on Ammunition.

We were terribly short then, and understandably shorter later of hand grenades, .50 caliber machine gun and infantry mortar ammunition. We had only a few rounds of the latter type, critically needed in jungle fighting. We were poverty-stricken, too, in ammunition for the 2.95 howitzers, for these were obsolete guns and the ammunition for them no longer was being made.

We got practically no transportation for any purpose; hardly a truck, hardly a car. My command, destined to receive the forthcoming blow of perhaps a quarter of a million well equipped Japanese troops, supported by warships and air force in full charge of the skies, was spread over an area 75 miles from north to south and 100 miles from east to west.

But the only means of communication with the various divisions was through the public telephone lines.

## Doomed at Start.

To top everything, the main bulk of my men were not only untrained but undisciplined, and were led by extremely inexperienced Filipino officers.

What I am saying is this: The Philippine Army units with the North Luzon force were doomed before they started to fight. That they lasted as long as they did is a stirring and touching tribute to their gallantry and fortitude.

They never had a chance to win.

My more detailed inspection of the four scattered divisions of the North Luzon force was to begin on Dec. 6, 1941. That morning I worked around my headquarters at Stotsenburg and though we heard nothing from MacArthur or Washington the tension could be cut with a knife.

I did hear that day from MacArthur's headquarters that the troops in Hawaii had been put under a sabotage alert. MacArthur instructed me through his staff—he rarely spoke on the phone himself—to have my troops ready to move promptly to their beach defenses.

But his staff officer added that there was no need actually to alert them.

That same morning of Dec. 6 I rode over to Clark Field, which is a sort of continuation of Stotsenburg. I had been riding automobile cushions for a week or so and itched to get back on my thoroughbred "Little Boy." Air Corps Colonels Eubank and "Rosie" O'Donnell had just arrived at Clark Field, leading a flight of 36 B-17s. I talked to Eubank for a time about the flight, a perilous one in those days. But I had nothing to do with the air forces. They were commanded by Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton, who was responsible to MacArthur.

## Last Good Sleep.

On the afternoon of Dec. 6 I had an inspection of the 26th Cavalry, a battery of the 23rd Field Artillery, and one pack train, on the 1,000-yard-long parade ground at Stotsenburg. They were the extent of my units at the fort. I turned in about 11 o'clock that Saturday night, and



**JUST BEFORE THE INVASION**—Jonathan M. Wainwright, then a major general, sits at his headquarters somewhere in the Philippines, discussing defense strategy with his staff a few days before the Japs began their invasion of the islands. Officers standing are, left to right, Lt. Col. D. P. Murphy, Capt. L. A. Mason, Maj. C. H. Smith, Lt. J. R. Pugh and Maj. Gen. U. Weaver.

transportation of escalators at the T&P station. Substitution of escalators for stairways leading from station level to train platforms was suggested by the City Council as a convenience to wounded veterans and elderly travelers. Bothwell said the conference with Chester would explore all possibilities for improvement of conditions at the station, including escalators, elevators and ramps.

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### Board to Canvass Vote

The school board Wednesday night will canvass the official vote on the school bond issue held Oct. 2.

The \$2,500,000 bond issue authorizes the building of a new Technical Institute and the construction and rehabilitation of other school facilities.

### Boyce House to Speak

Boyce House, Texas author and radio speaker, will be the speaker for the South Side Lions Club luncheon Wednesday at the Colonial Country Club. His topic will be "Texas, Proud and Loud." Ed B. Gunter is program chairman.

I had many occasions later on to remember that I got a good night's sleep. It was the last decent sleep I was to have for three years and eight months.

I worked the next day, Sunday, Dec. 7 (which, of course, was Saturday, Dec. 6—Pearl Harbor time) and finished plans for the inspection tour which would formally begin the next day.

At 4:45 a. m. on the morning of Dec. 8 (which was 7:35 a. m. Sunday morning in Pearl Harbor) the phone in the room next to my pitch black bedroom rang with sharp insistence. I got up and strode for it, sensing it was bad news.

"Yes?" It was Col. Pete Irwin, MacArthur's assistant chief of staff for operations.

"Admiral Hart (whose Asiatic Fleet lay in Manila Bay) has just received a radio dispatch from Admiral Kimmel (Commander of the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor) informing him that Japan has initiated hostilities," Irwin's voice said.

I started to dress with one hand. With the other hand I jiggled the phone and called my aide, Johnny Pugh.

"Johnny!" "Hello?—Yes, General." "The cat has jumped."

(Tomorrow: The raid on Clark Field, beginning of the end of Luzon.)

by Stanley Spain of Austin. "The handicapped is equal to the job and is not a risk," he said.

Spain, assistant state veterans' representative, was one of three speakers at the safety engineers' inaugural dinner of "Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The dinner meeting was held at First Christian Church.

### Costa Rica Will Be Round Table Theme

Costa Rica will be the theme of the Pan American Round Table's first meeting of the season at 11 a. m. Wednesday at the Clarice Stovall Tearoom, 2300 Hemphill.

A Spanish class under Mrs. G. A. Walls will begin the session, and a program under the direction of Mrs. W. S. Lorimer will start at noon. Mrs. Lorimer and Miss Sue Macatee will conduct a discussion on the educational system in Costa Rica.

A memorial service for Mrs. F. B. Porter will precede the luncheon scheduled for 1 p. m. Mrs. Porter, who was treasurer of the Round Table, died early this fall.

### Chaplain to Speak

Chaplain John S. Garrenton of Fort Worth Army Air Field will speak at a meeting of the River Oaks Civic League at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday at Castleberry School.

The forthcoming Community War Chest campaign will be the theme of the meeting, and Chaplain Garrenton will discuss his overseas experiences with relief agencies. L. J. Ervin will preside.

is the unwillingness of the employer to take interest in the physically handicapped."

A. F. Allen, president of the Texas Employers Insurance Company of Dallas, outlined rules which would allow management to "quit worrying about insurance costs" in the employment of the handicapped.

### WEEK'S WEATHER

Extended forecast by the U. S. Weather Bureau for the period from 7:30 p. m. Tuesday through 7:30 p. m. Saturday:

Texas Gulf Plains and Northeast Texas—Precipitation moderate to heavy occurring as general rains Wednesday and as showers Friday; cool Wednesday, warmer Thursday, cooler Northeast Texas Friday.

Texas West of Gulf Plains—Precipitation averaging light to moderate occurring as general rains Wednesday; temperatures near to above normal, cool Wednesday and Thursday becoming warmer Friday and Saturday.

### 208,000 Released by Navy in Six Weeks

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9 (AP).—The Navy has released 208,000 men since demobilization began six weeks ago, a Navy Department spokesman said Tuesday.

In the first six days of October, he said, 60,000 were discharged.

ized Fort Worth Reserve Club, Lt. Col. C. E. E. Elner reserve officer, w president and Lt. Col. Dahl, infantry reserve o elected secretary-treasu Col. E. M. Day, secret general staff of the AA addressed the reserve of urged the need of a stroi reserve.

Col. Clarence K. Smul of Engineers, recently from four years service i told the group that such tions could help retu ficers in making thei ments.

### Posts Are Filled Tuberculosis Soc

Dr. Bert C. Ball was ele vice president and Georg ter was named a membe board at the monthly m the Fort Worth and Tarr ty Tuberculosis Society T 12:15 p. m. in the society the Majestic Building.

The offices were left v the resignation of Don E. who recently moved fr Worth to Columbus, Ohio.

Acceptance of the resig Rev. J. H. Patterson of A also was voted.

### Saddle Theft Sentent

Wayne W. Mace, charg theft of a \$125 saddle by pleaded guilty in Criminal Court Tuesday and receive year suspended sentence.

The saddle, belonging t son DeJarnett of Dallas, fo Mace worked, assertedly w June 28.

## SHE WAS A GOOD GIRL, FATHER DECLARES

# Minister Says Daughter Was on Way to Church Rally When Slain

CLEVELAND, Texas, Oct. 9 (AP). Elnora Collins was on her way to a church rally when her trip was interrupted by death, her father said Tuesday.

The grief-stricken country preacher and his wife are picking up the simple threads of their life as time eases the shock of Elnora's brutal slaying.

Rev. J. Asa Collins, pastor of the White Oaks Primitive Baptist Church near here, is the father of the pretty young government worker whose nude and burned body was found in roadside brush near Beaumont.

Elnora was the baby of the family. She had three older sis-

ters and one brother. They have lived here for over 25 years.

They still live here—all except Elnora, who left home several years ago to make a career for herself, and who now lies buried in a tiny cemetery 15 miles west of Cleveland.

A hundred friends and relatives—a large crowd for a small town—stood silently in a pouring rain as her coffin was lowered.

The father and mother collapsed when they received the news that Elnora's body had been found. Until Tuesday, they would see no one except relatives and close friends.

Rev. Mr. Collins says h daughter was a good gi was graduated from the Cl schools in 1934, and was in church circles. She sang choir. She was popular

At the time of her dea nora Collins was going church meeting at Buna.

The Primitive Baptist Association district meeti being held at Buna. Her and mother were to atte Elnora was going there weekend. Her visit was in ed by death.

"She was a good girl," s father brokenly.