

0. UNPREPARED FOR WAR - Story Preface

## 1. UNPREPARED FOR WAR

2. THE BREAKING POINT

3. BATAAN and CORREGIDOR

4. DIRE WARNINGS

5. MacARTHUR LEAVES

6. ON THEIR OWN

7. THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH

8. DEATH MARCH PHOTOS

9. CORREGIDOR FALLS

10. CAMPS O'DONNELL and CABANATUAN

11. REASONS TO FEAR

12. ALAMO SCOUTS and 6TH BATTALION RANGERS

13. THE RESCUE PLAN

14. HENRY MUCCI and the RESCUE



This US Air Force photo depicts "P-35s destroyed during an air attack on Nichols Field, Luzon, on Dec. 10, 1941." It is part of an article, at the National Museum of the US Air Force, entitled: "[The Cost of Being Unprepared: The Last Days on Bataan.](#)"

The article describes the situation in The Philippines on the day after Japanese forces bombed Pearl Harbor: "On Dec. 8, 1941, Japanese aircraft crippled several USAAF airfields in the Philippines -- within three days, the USAAF lost two-thirds of its aircraft there. After Japanese aircraft invaded Luzon, Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered a withdrawal to the stronghold of the Bataan Peninsula. With only a handful of aircraft left, many USAAF mechanics, armorers, services personnel -- and sometimes even fighter pilots -- became infantrymen."

Then there is this quote from the diary of 2nd Lt. John Posten, a 24th Pursuit Group pilot (on January 9, 1942): "It really must be getting serious when they have to take the mechanics and armament men and make infantrymen out of them."

The Philippines, in [December](#) of 1941, was a country unprepared for war. Before Japan's attack, few air bases could handle bombers. When the war began, the entire island chain had seven radar sets, but only two were working.

Filipino air watchers served as the early-warning system. Stationed at strategic points around the islands, they called-in (or telegraphed) plane movements which ultimately were reported to commanders at [Clark Field](#), the main American base ([on Luzon](#)).

Not only was the air-warning system primitive, there were too few anti-aircraft units in the Philippines to effectively defend the country. Because it was imperative to protect Clark Field and the [Manila Bay area](#), the two anti-aircraft squadrons were positioned there, leaving the rest of the territory completely vulnerable.

The Navy had ships in Manila Bay, but they would never be able to match forces with the Japanese combined fleet. Marines, stationed in China, could help - but they were otherwise occupied.

The islands did have [about 275 planes](#)—more than Hawaii and Panama had at the time—but many of the parts were still in other ports. Among aircraft assigned to the Philippines were:

- Douglas [B-18A](#)
- Martin [B-10B](#)
- Republic [P-35](#)

- Boeing B-17D
- Curtiss P-40E
- Boeing P-26A

Two days before Pearl Harbor, General Marshall wrote a letter (dated December 5, 1941) to General MacArthur, advising that reinforcements would soon be on their way. Closing his letter, Marshall wrote:

*I assure you of my purpose to meet to the fullest extent possible your recommendations for personnel and equipment necessary to defend the Philippines.*

The letter was never sent.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/UNPREPARED-FOR-WAR-Great-Raid-The>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/UNPREPARED-FOR-WAR-Great-Raid-The>

## Media Stream



### Clark Field Air Base

Image online, courtesy Department of Defense.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Clark-Field-Air-Base>



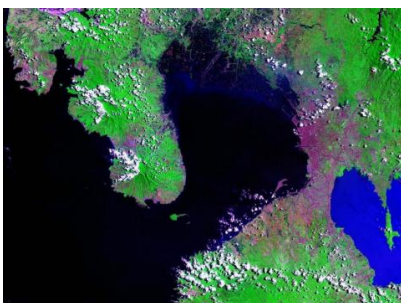
### Island of Luzon in the Philippine Sea

Image, described above, online courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Island-of-Luzon-in-the-Philippine-Sea>



### Manila Bay at the Island of Luzon

Image online, courtesy NASA.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Manila-Bay-at-the-Island-of-Luzon>



### Douglas B-18A Airplane

Image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter III - "The Reinforcement of the Philippines" - at page 40.

Image online, courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://iBiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Douglas-B-18A-Airplane>

### Martin B-10B Airplane

Image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter III - "The Reinforcement of the Philippines" - at page 40.

Image online, courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://iBiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Martin-B-10B-Airplane>



### Republic P-35 Airplane

Image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter III - "The Reinforcement of the Philippines" - at page 40.

Image online, courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://iBiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Republic-P-35-Airplane>

### Boeing B-17D Airplane

Image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter III - "The Reinforcement of the Philippines" - at page 41.

Image online, courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://iBiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boeing-B-17D-Airplane>



### Curtiss P-40E Airplane

Image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter III - "The Reinforcement of the Philippines" - at page 41.

Image online, courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://iBiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Curtiss-P-40E-Airplane>



### Boeing P-26A Airplane

Image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter III - "The Reinforcement of the Philippines" - at page 41.

Image online, courtesy [iBiblio.org](http://iBiblio.org) website.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boeing-P-26A-Airplane>

