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This illustration depicts "The General Attack on the Bataan Peninsula" by Japanese artist J. Mukai. It is included in *Philippine Islands: The U.S. Army Campaigns of World War II* (at [page 18 of the online version](#)).

After the Japanese attacked the Philippines, including the Cavite Navy Yard (on December 10, 1941) and the Port of Manila (on December 24th), General Douglas MacArthur moved most of his men to a Philippine peninsula not far from Manila called Bataan.

MacArthur remained on Corregidor, a rocky island referred to as "The Gibraltar of the East."

On January 23rd, American defenders on Bataan were forced to fall back from the main defense-line, following heavy Japanese attacks. The invaders of Bataan used captured guns to fire on their enemies.

After weeks—then months—of fighting, as his men went without adequate food and ammunition, MacArthur felt abandoned by the U.S. government. He sent urgent dispatches for reinforcements.

None came.

Instead, the Japanese continued to barrage Bataan and besiege Corregidor, the small island in Manila Bay where MacArthur was headquartered. The seemingly impregnable island was actually vulnerable, its main place of "safety" the Malinta Tunnel where thousands of ill-equipped men eventually sought cover.

Military planners in Washington understood what would happen to Filipinos and Americans if the Philippines were not properly defended. But fighting a war in Europe and the Pacific was stretching the United States and her allies beyond their capacity to send supplies and reinforcements.

The operative question was: Where could those limited troops and supplies do the most good for the most people?

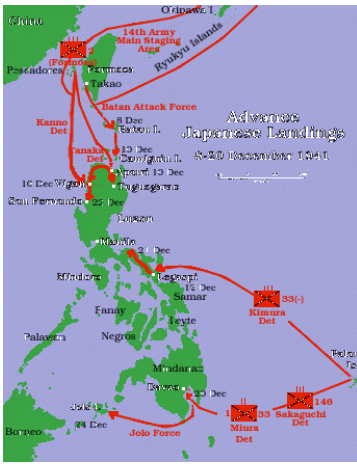
The Philippines—and the people stationed there—came out on the losing end of the analysis. If anyone in Washington had suggested that Americans should be evacuated from the Philippines, that message must have fallen on deaf ears.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/BATAAN-and-CORREGIDOR-Great-Raid-The>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/BATAAN-and-CORREGIDOR-Great-Raid-The>



Advanced Japanese Landings December 1941

Map image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter VI - "The First Landings" - at [page 99](#).

Image online, courtesy [ibiblio.org](#) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

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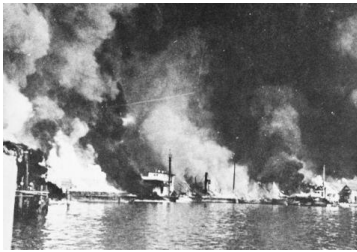


Damage to Cavite Naval Yard

Image online, courtesy the Naval Historical Center website.

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Japanese Attack on Cavite Naval Yard - Philippines

Image online, courtesy [ibiblio.org](#) website.

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Cavite Navy Yard Damage Photo

Image online, courtesy the [Army Logistician](#), dated July-August, 2006.

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Damage to Manila - 1941 Japanese Attack

Image online, courtesy [ibiblio.org](#) website.

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Troop Movement Near Manila in 1941

Image online, courtesy lastchinaband.com website.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troop-Movement-Near-Manila-in-1941>



Japanese Attacks on Bataan

Image online, courtesy the [World War II Today](http://www.worldwar2today.com) website.

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Japanese Troops Use Captured Weapons

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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Battle Positions in Bataan - January 8, 1942

Map image from *United States Army in World War II - The War in the Pacific - The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton. See Chapter XV - "Setting the Stage" - at page 246.

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

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American Troops in Malinta Tunnel

U.S. Army photo; included in *Getting the Message Through - A Branch History of the U.S.*

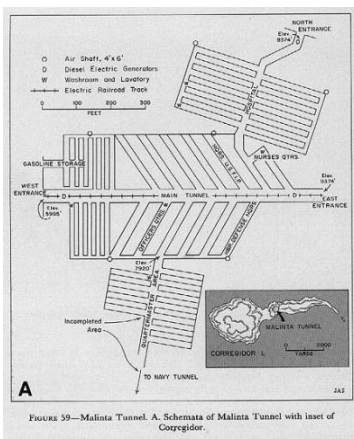
Army Signal Corps, by Rebecca Robbins Raines (published, in 1996, by the Center of Military History and part of the Army Historical Series). See Chapter VIII - "World War II: Theaters of War," at page 219.

Image online, courtesy U.S. Army Center of Military History.

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Malinta Tunnel - Place of Refuge

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Army Medical Department, Office of Medical History.

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Depiction of Manila Bay - Location of Corregidor

Image online, courtesy New Mexico State University, *1941 Battle For Bataan!* website.

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American Troops in the Philippines

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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1944 Map of the Philippines

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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