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After American and Filipino forces on the island of Bataan surrendered, Japanese-controlled media published the news. This local Manila paper—*The Tribune*, published on April 24, 1942—states the invaders provided “medicine for the sick and helped war refugees in all other ways possible, showing great concern for their welfare.” Online via National Museum of the Air Force.

Lacking sufficient food and supplies, the men on Bataan did what they could to resist the Japanese advance. Without guidance from much-needed engineers, the defenders sabotaged wooden bridges (by spreading straw - in preparation for setting them on fire), destroyed steel bridges and prepared temporary bridges for themselves.

Although they continued to fall back, the Americans (pictured here in a Bataan foxhole) and Filipinos continued to hold Bataan. Japanese propaganda, aimed at severing the united defense, failed. Bitterly, however, someone penned these words about saving the peninsula:

*...saved for another day  
Saved for hunger and wound and heat  
For slow exhaustion and grim retreat  
For a wasted hope and a sure defeat.*

From the safety of Australia - where one of his officers on Bataan (Brigadier General William Brougher) observed the general was likely “eating steak and eggs” - MacArthur sent a no-surrender message to Wainwright:

*I am utterly opposed under any circumstances or conditions to the ultimate capitulation of this command. If food fails, you will prepare and execute an attack upon the enemy.*

Despite messages of encouragement which MacArthur sent to his troops, many junior officers and enlisted men in the Philippines were extremely upset about MacArthur’s departure. Feeling abandoned not just by their country, but also by their General, they wrote and circulated poems criticizing MacArthur.

Was “Dugout Doug” a sellout? Why should they heed what he had to say?

*In Australia’s fresh clime,  
he took out the time  
to send us a message of cheer.  
My heart, he began,  
Goes out to Bataan,  
But the rest of me’s  
Staying right here.*

The plight of the men on Bataan and Corregidor worsened.

Some had learned Japan controlled the Pacific - which meant that supply convoys would likely not arrive. Without more food, reinforcements and other assistance, they could not hold out, despite orders to the contrary. They could fight on, but all would surely die.

Surrender seemed to be the only option.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ON-THEIR-OWN-Great-Raid-The>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ON-THEIR-OWN-Great-Raid-The>

## Media Stream

### Japanese-Written Press Coverage on the Fall of Bataan

When American soldiers on the Filipino island of Bataan were not relieved by other U.S. or Allied forces, in April of 1942, they were forced to surrender.

The men had been urged to hold on, but messages of encouragement meant little when reality set in:

- How could hungry men fight?
- How could they continue to resist without help?

With no realistic options, other than surrender, the abandoned men gave up.

The news was covered by the local Filipino press which was controlled by the same Japanese invaders to whom the men had surrendered. Coverage of the event was predictably one-sided.

The National Museum of the Air Force has a copy of *The Tribune's* April 24, 1942 issue. The lead photo tells the Filipino people how helpful the invading forces are to the local population.

Among other things, the caption says:

*...The Japanese also gave medicine for the sick and helped war refugees in all other ways possible, showing great concern for their welfare.*

*The photo, as noted, was taken by the Japanese Propaganda Corps.*

Curators at the Air Force Museum provide additional details about [this news coverage](#):

*The invading Japanese controlled the Philippine media, which portrayed imperial forces as helpful liberators. In reality, the Japanese were committing brutal war crimes like the Bataan Death March.*

*This front page claims that Japanese occupation will bring peace and tranquility to the Philippines. Click on the image to enlarge the view.*

*April 24, 1942 issue of "The Tribune," published in Manila, The Philippines. Online via the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.*

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japanese-Written-Press-Coverage-on-the-Fall-of-Bataan>



### Japanese Landings on Bataan

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

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### Bataan Defenders - Soldier Engaging in Sabotage

Photo included in *The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton, Chapter XV - "Setting the Stage," at page 260. Image online, courtesy [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). PD

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### Bataan Defenders - Building a Temporary Bridge

Photo included in *The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton, Chapter XV - "Setting the Stage," at page 260. Image online, courtesy [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). PD

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### Bataan Defenders - Steel Bridge Destroyed

Photo included in *The Fall of the Philippines*, by Louis Morton, Chapter XV - "Setting the Stage," at page 260. Image online, courtesy [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org) website (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). PD

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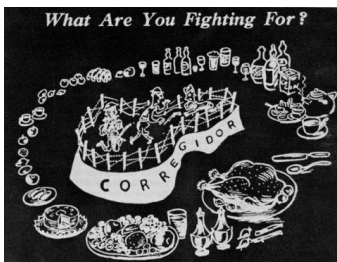
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bataan-Defenders-Steel-Bridge-Destroyed>



### Americans in Bataan Foxhole

Image online from the *Battling Bastards of Bataan*, by Richard Sassaman, courtesy [americainwwII.com](http://americainwwII.com) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Americans-in-Bataan-Foxhole>



### Bataan - Japanese Propaganda

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bataan-Japanese-Propaganda>



### General MacArthur in Australia

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

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### Bataan - William Brougher

Image online, courtesy the [Fort McClellan](http://www.fortmcclellan.com) website.

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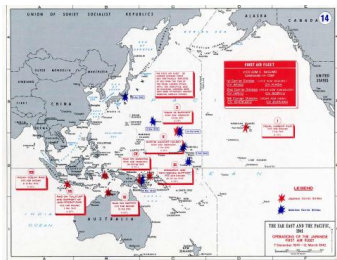
### Americans and Filipinos - Last Stand on Luzon

Image online, courtesy the [bigmapblog.com](http://bigmapblog.com) website.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Americans-and-Filipinos-Last-Stand-on-Luzon>



### Japanese Air Operations - Controlling the Pacific

Image online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy Atlas Collection.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japanese-Air-Operations-Controlling-the-Pacific>