

745 NPM
N 52
Filed 4th 1910

Radiogram

AC-4

Received at the War Department Message
Center Room 3441 Munitions Bldg. Washington, D.C.

May 4, 1942

818PM

From Ft. Mills
to General George C. Marshall

No. 907 May 4th

To be seen only by decoding clerk and General Marshall.

Reurad 1411. Hostile Air Corps has been bombing Corregidor relentlessly since March 24. Following fall of Bataan on 9 April, enemy immediately emplaced artillery on south shore of peninsula and has since then subjected our defenses to artillery fire. Beginning 29 April (Emperor's birthday) the fire of hostile artillery increased in intensity and has continued at that tempo to present date. The hostile bombing has been relatively ineffective but artillery fire from large caliber guns (240 MM) has resulted in destruction of large percentage of coast defense and beach defense artillery and small arms. Continued bombardment has resulted in about 600 casualties since April 9, and has lowered morale of troops. Morale difficult to maintain at best because troops have been constantly under or subject to air or artillery attack since December 29 and have been receiving half of poorly balanced ration since January 8. However, morale amazingly good considering conditions under which troops are now operating. Persistent reports from our operatives indicate that enemy is planning to launch an assault against Corregidor. He has prepared a large number of motor boats on which weapons are

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5800.9 (8/27/88)

mounted, and has also constructed a large number of smaller boats to be used in transporting troops. I have nothing on which to base an estimate of present hostile troops strength on Luzon. However, enemy has recently taken Cebu and Panay, using about ten thousand men in each operation, and is now engaged in attack on Mindanao. I estimate that at least ten thousand are now engaged in operations on Mindanao. Unless troops have been withdrawn from the Philippines I believe that a sufficient force remains on Luzon to undertake an operation against Corregidor. Enemy forces will soon be in possession of all important areas bordering on coast of Mindanao and our troops will be confined to mountains. Thereafter enemy can clean up Visayan islands and Mindanao at leisure. In my opinion the enemy is capable of making an assault on Corregidor at any time. The success or failure of such an assault will depend entirely on steadfastness of beach defense troops. With morale at present level I estimate that we have something less than an even chance to beat off an assault. In accordance with your request I have given you a very frank and honest opinion on the situation here as I see it.

Wainwright

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DDO DIR. 5280.9 (9/27/88)

Date- 8-10-71

~~SECRET~~

Signature- RHP

~~SECRET~~
BY AUTHORITY OF A.C. OF S., OPD

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
OPERATIONS DIVISION
WASHINGTON

Date: May 5, 1942 Initials

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER:

Subject: Far Eastern Situation

The Chief of Staff directs that the following secret message in code be transmitted to the Commanding General, U.S. Forces in the Philippine Islands, Fort Mills, by the most expeditious means possible consistent with secrecy: WDMPD:

PERSONAL FROM THE PRESIDENT TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL WAINWRIGHT
PERIOD DURING RECENT WEEKS COMMA WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH
GROWING ADMIRATION THE DAY BY DAY ACCOUNTS OF YOUR HEROIC STAND
AGAINST THE MOUNTING INTENSITY OF BOMBARDMENT BY ENEMY PLANES
AND HEAVY SEIGE GUNS PERIOD IN SPITE OF ALL THE HANDICAPS OF
COMPLETE ISOLATION COMMA LACK OF FOOD AND AMMUNITION YOU HAVE
GIVEN THE WORLD A SHINING EXAMPLE OF PATRIOTIC FORTITUDE AND
SELF-SACRIFICE PERIOD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ASK NO FINER EXAMPLE
OF TENACITY COMMA RESOURCEFULNESS COMMA AND STEADFAST COURAGE
PERIOD THE CALM DETERMINATION OF YOUR PERSONAL LEADERSHIP IN
A DESPERATE SITUATION SETS A STANDARD OF DUTY FOR OUR SOLDIERS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD PERIOD IN EVERY CAMP AND ON EVERY NAVAL
VESSEL SOLDIERS SAILORS AND MARINES ARE INSPIRED BY THE GALLANT
STRUGGLE OF THEIR COMRADES IN THE PHILIPPINES PERIOD THE WORKMEN
IN OUR SHIPYARDS AND MUNITIONS PLANTS REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS
BECAUSE OF YOUR EXAMPLE PERIOD YOU AND YOUR DEVOTED FOLLOWERS
HAVE BECOME THE LIVING SYMBOLS OF OUR WAR AIMS AND THE GUARANTEE
OF VICTORY PERIOD

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

FDR
~~SECRET~~
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
DECLASSIFIED
DDO DIR. 5880.2 (2/27/88)

