

GENERAL HOMMA
Denies Order

Ordering Death March Denied By Homma

Yokohama, Sept. 15 (AP)—Jose P. Laurel, puppet president of the Philippines under Japanese rule; his son, Jose 3d, and Benigno S. Aquino, president of the puppet National Assembly, were jailed here today. The three Filipinos were arrested at a resort twenty miles from Osaka.

By Alva N. Dopling
Tokyo, Sept. 15 (AP)—Lieut. Gen. Masaharu Homma denied today that he had ordered the Death March of Americans from Hataan, but acknowledged that he was ready "to take full responsibility for any of the acts of my subordinates," and surrendered to rural police of Kanagawa prefect for Allied questioning.

Homma and Lieut. Gen. Shigenori Kuroda, who followed him as commander of Japanese forces in the Philippines, reached the rural police station today in a Japanese War Department Ford, accompanied by Associated Press correspondents Morris Landberg and Max Denton. Kanagawa police are expected to turn the two generals over to American authorities for questioning about war crimes with which their names are linked.

Dressed As Civilians

Both wore civilian clothing and both said they had been retired from the Japanese Army after their Philippine duty "without explanation."

Kuroda, 53-year-old officer who spent 36 years in the army, said, "we lost the war—there must have been some mistake."

Kuroda said 10,000 American prisoners were held in the Philippines under his command (May, 1942—September, 1944) but he knew of no atrocities.

British Accents

Both generals speak English with pronounced British accents. They conversed with each other quietly in Japanese most of the time, however.

Both took keen interest in the bombing damage in the Tokyo and Yokohama industrial areas, which they said they had not seen before. Kuroda said it was "terrible." He was also interested in the first American jeep that he saw.

When he arrived at Tokyo's YNO station early today on the way to

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Sun, Feb 17, 2019

General Homma Denies Ordering Death March

By Alva N. Dopkins
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give himself up. Homma told me in an interview that in that spring of 1942 the defense of Corregidor was so strong that he had been about ready to conclude that his assault was a failure when he saw the flying Americanarrison run up the white flag.

Pearl Harbor Surprise
Homma insisted that he was as surprised to find himself on General MacArthur's "waiver" list. He was then assigned to Manila. He had landed on December 8, 1941 (Singapore time), at Zambora station.

Pearl Harbor
He had Japanese landing forces in the final assault on Corregidor, and he was about ready to conclude he had failed. Then he saw the Americans raise the white flag. It was a surprise because the Japanese had been able to take the offensive there, he said. "They would have been virtually at sea. Had they been virtually at sea, had they been when he began his amphibious attack on the island fortress of Manila Bay.

Retired in August, 1943
Homma said he was relieved from the army in August, 1943. He said that his retirement had been given him in view of that his retirement may have been caused by the fact that "I did not like war."

Homma, higher than most Japanese, like the popular concept of a general, was calm in the airship from the train. Slightly stooped and his expression, civilian still, he seemed to be making a point to appear as if it had not been for the four soldiers—two civilian and two military—who met him.

He said he came from his home in Nagasaki, where he boarded the train for a fresh route to Tokyo. He had not fled to Manila, he insisted. He said he returned to Manila only to see the radio that the news "No. 11" on MacArthur's "waiver" list.

From the station, he went first to his Tokyo residence to prepare his own defense, explaining that it would take several hours.

With this he brought one more item—his photograph of his wife and child and a document certifying that he was a member of the Japanese military, an army officer for 38 years, said he intended to spend his life in England. "There's about a great deal of time," he also served in India, and never visited the United States.

Remaining at his Tokyo residence over a gap of ten with two members of the Philippine Scouts and him.

Associated Press correspondents, he said the Philippine Scouts had been his last campaign of the war.

Considered "pro-Japanese"
Homma added that he was considered Japan's wartime Premier Hideo Togo thought he was "one of them."

"I am neither pro-Japanese or pro-American, but get pro-Japanese," he asserted. "Normally, however, when a man spends some time in another nation, he becomes somewhat friendly with that country than one he has never been in."

Of the notorious Bataan death march, with its thirst, hunger, atrocities, beatings and general wretched conditions by Japanese troops, he talked vaguely. "The march had to stop because of a lack of cooperation, but I don't think it was such a tough march," he declared.

Question Of Water
Homma said there was plenty of water along the way, but said he was not sure whether Americans were permitted to drink from the streams that his own forces were also barred from drinking from.

There was great confusion during the surrender.

At his first meeting with General Wainwright, who surrendered the Corregidor garrison to end the American defense of the Philippines in 1942, he asked, he was asked to take a death march.

General Wainwright expressed to surrender the entire garrison to the Philippines. Homma said he asked Wainwright to surrender all American and Philippine forces in the Philippines, which Wainwright did not do.

Only 2,000 Japs Landed
By the time Corregidor fell, his own troops were in a pitiful state, Homma continued. If he was able to land only 2,000 Japs on the rock island, he insisted, he had no way of knowing that many they could knock out, he said.

The battle for Bataan also has taken more longer than he has expected, he said, and that he had seen radio how many troops the Americans thought he had in the Philippines.

"Actually, I landed with two mixed brigades," he said. How many followed this question, however, he did not say.

3 Divisions Landed
He reported he had heard of an estimate of about 150,000 troops when the death march, at Corregidor, he said.

"I did not see anything like that," he said.

Asked to say where the Japanese officers were, he said he did not know. However, Homma made it clear he did not wish to be in the position of trying to evade responsibility for what his staff officers now have done with the captured Bataan prisoners.

"Good Leader"
"We have been told and I want to be a good leader," he insisted.

Homma said he had found that the Americans had been given food in their pockets. He explained that the Japanese could have shown the Americans as charged, he said.

"We had only a small number of men with our own equipment," he said.

He remained firm that Americans, even before their surrender, had been superior fighting and were a force that without weapons they were ready in a position to attack their armed copies.

He Answered To That
He made no reply in Manila, Gen. Wainwright, his chief of staff in the Philippines situation now is in China. Homma added.

Only a few top military and general staff officers in Japan were of the plans to attack Pearl Harbor, he said he was contacted—and decided early on.

Despite early criticism, Japan made four big mistakes in the war, he said.

1. The Japanese lacked appreciation of the potential strength of the United States. "They only know how these things always turned to a second shot."

2. Japan overestimated her supply lines—for example, in the position of original "no-man's-land."

"But please," he said, "don't put me in the position of original 'no-man's-land.' I do not want to criticize these things."

In addition to the matter which accorded Homma to his relatives who have not, then left him, Homma has a wife and two children. His body was met by Kaname San, secretary of the Japanese Philippine Red Cross.

Homor



Homma Denies Ordering March 2

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Sun, Feb 17, 2019

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

HOMMA KNOWS

What He's In For

By Taking Bataan Rap, Writer Asserts.

Jap General Calm, White Says, Recalling Meeting In North China.

BY JAMES D. WHITE.

San Francisco, Sept. 17—(AP)—If you can figure out the personal paradox of Lt. Gen. Mashaharu Homma you may be close to one key to the Japanese militarist and the system which makes him perform.

Homma, you'll recall, is the man Americans think of as the butcher of Bataan, responsible for the infamous death march. He steps calmly off a train in Tokyo and tells American newspapermen that he really didn't know about the march, but is ready to accept responsibility for what his subordinates may have done.

In 1939 Homma was Commander in Chief at Tientsin in North China. The story then was that he wasn't one of the military radicals but that he had been sent there by the Japanese High Command as a "reliable" commander to control the rabid young officers who were back of the blockade of the British concession and who were having a wonderful time undressing British and other Westerners at the blockade barriers.

Homma held an interview. We were surprised to find this heavy-set general quite jovial, frank and showing none of the jittery, self-consciousness which affected most Japanese officers.

TALKS IN ENGLISH.

Homma seemed the calmest Japanese officer I had ever met, and

DONALD DUCK

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to witness the surrender told me that he was apprehensive that Homma's troops might get out of hand, because of the bitter defense the Americans had put up.

They had been told the Americans were a bunch of drunken softies, he pointed out, and were furious that the fight had cost the lives of so many Japanese after they had been led to expect a push-over. He indicated that Homma wasn't in a good position to clamp down because his younger officers suspected him of being pro-western.

Now Homma says he didn't know what took place after Wainwright surrendered, and most Americans will doubt him. But it might be partly true. The real question is did he want to know, and did he make any effort to find out what went on, or do anything about it?

That's still a mystery, and Homma himself sheds no light on it when he takes full responsibility for what happened. The interesting thing is that unlike many other high Japanese Army map—such as Tojo—Homma doesn't try to escape into suicide but even travels back to Tokyo to give himself up.

Homma may be an excellent actor, of course, and such a gesture would strengthen his act. But among Japanese Army commanders Homma has had more than the usual experience with the English-speaking world.

Homma knows far better than most Japanese what he is getting into by taking the rap for Bataan.

his only impatience was with a Japanese interpreter whose English was very poor. Homma became fed up and talked to us directly in polished English. He seemed perfectly reasonable except that he insisted he knew of no instance where Japanese troops were misbehaving.

"At another time I watched him worship at a Japanese military shrine. He made the usual bow, and turned quickly and walked down the steps. As he passed us, correspondents he smiled briefly and may even have winked. We argued about that afterward, because shrines are solemn places, and other Japanese were fairly quaking with the usual "trepidation."

Still later, I saw Homma personally lift the blockade. As the barriers swung open a gigantic crowd of thousands of Chinese who'd been isolated from their homes and jobs by the blockade surged through the street.

Homma stood like a rock, almost apart from a small squad of his troops. Anyone could have stuck a knife in his broad back and escaped in that mob that flowed past him like a flood. He just stood there, smiling.

When Homma accepted Wainwright's surrender on Corregidor, I was still in Shanghai. A Japanese acquaintance who had gone down

TWO DIVISIONS MOVE INTO STAGING AREAS

Paris, Sept. 17—(AP)—The Seventh Armored and 70th Infantry Divisions were moving into staging areas today where the Fifth Armored and 106th Infantry Divisions were awaiting movement home. The Army said 85,000 American troops cleared La Havre and 68,000 sailed from Marseille in the first 15 days of September. To speed the return home, the average 60-hour turnaround time for ships in the French embarkation ports has been trimmed to 24 hours.

Homma Knows What He's In For

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Homma had Thin Interest For Captives

Is Testimony Given by Former Staff Officer

By James Halseth

MANILA, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Japanese Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma must have seen orders for the brutal "death march" of Americans and Filipinos from Bataan in 1942, but had "a very thin interest" in his captives, one of his former staff officers testified as Homma's war-crimes trial opened today.

The witness, Maj. Gen. Toshitatsu, said that Homma's headquarters on Bataan were less than 300 yards from the death-march route, and that Homma traveled 20 miles down the highway while the prisoners were driven mercilessly along it.

Describing the death rate among captives as 300 daily at the O'Donnell prison camp, Takatsu said medicines were "not sufficient," and "I think there was a lack of food, which was mostly rice. Also, there was not much water." He said he reported these conditions to Homma's headquarters but nothing was done.

Little Interest

His statement that Homma's interest in prisoners was "very thin" was quoted by prosecutors from an earlier, written statement, and Takatsu today declined to elaborate. He explained to prosecution questioner Lt. Benjamin F. Schwartz, Los Angeles, that he was "honor bound" not to speak badly of Homma in the latter's presence.

Defense counsel had objected that many of the specifications filed against Homma in his trial for "violation of the laws of humanity" were vague, and the prosecutors introduced additional details.

In establishing "widespread raping and brutal mistreatment of American and Filipino women," they said, they would offer proof that such actions, for which they blame Homma, included the "inhuman" treatment of an unarmed, married American woman at the swank Rosario apartments two days after the fall of Manila. As the result of her treatment, they said, the woman was sent to an asylum as insane.

Homma In Charge

Homma, the prosecution asserted, was directly in charge of all Japanese forces in the Philippines at the time.

As the trial opened, prosecutors told the U. S. military commission hearing the case that Homma has no rights under the American Constitution and is "being tried for violations of the laws of humanity."

Homma Little Interest in POWs

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SIX
THE NEWS

Homma Not Usual Type Jap General

By The Associated Press

LT. GEN. Masaharu Homma, who died before a firing squad today, was not the popular conception of a Japanese general.

His fluent English—which he spoke with a pronounced British accent—and his suave manner with captives set him apart from the run of Japanese military leaders.

A man of wide acquaintance with British and American ways, he once described himself as a general who "did not like war."

Homma first came into the world news spotlight in 1939 as Commander-in-Chief of Japanese forces at Nanking. It was under his command that the "reluctant" young officers who were back of the blockade of the British, American and French.

Newsman described him as formal, frank, and without the jittery self-consciousness characteristic of most Japanese officers.

Homma played no great role, however, in Japan's military operations in China. His big chance to distinguish himself came when he was ordered to invade the Philippines late in 1941.

The first Japanese landings were made on December 16 but the American and Filipino resistance was greater than either Homma or the High Command had bargained for. It was not until May 6, 1942, that the fortress of Corregidor fell and Homma could report he had conquered the islands.

Later he admitted that his own troops were in a pitiful state, that Corregidor's exhausted defenders blocked out 25 of the 50 boats used in the final assault on the rock and that, if they had been able to counterattack, they might have wrecked his whole campaign.

But the starving, exhausted remnants of Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright's garrison could not counterattack. Corregidor fell, but the months it took Homma to achieve that goal laxed the Japanese High Command. He never again was entrusted with an important command. In August, 1943, he was retired from the army.

When Homma surrendered, in civilian clothes, to occupation authorities in Japan on September 15 last year, he mentioned this retirement was "without explanation," but said he thought it might have been because "I did not like war."

Thoughtful By Tojo

At his war crimes trial, which began on January 3 in Manila, Homma and several of his defense witnesses stressed his aloofness, unpopularity with venerated Premier Hideki Tojo and other top Japanese militarists. They said he was looked upon as "pro-Britain" and generally too gentle for the stern tasks of war.

Prosecution witnesses, however—including several Japanese—told a different story. One of Homma's own staff officers testified the general had "a very thin interest" in the fate of the American and Filipino prisoners who fell into his hands with the collapse of resistance on Bataan and Corregidor.

Survivors of the notorious death marches testified of cruel neglect and barbarities during the trek to prison camps in which 77,000 American and Filipino captives died of exhaustion or were killed by their guards. The prosecution charged, and submitted evidence to prove, that 27,000 Filipino and American prisoners died of neglect or were killed while Homma was Japanese commander in the islands, more than 20,000 of them in the notorious O'Donnell and Subanitan camps.

Homma disclaimed from the witness stand any knowledge of atrocities by his men, but under cross-examination he conceded it was morally responsible for anything that happened under his command.

He wept when his wife testified that he had fought as hard for peace in Tokyo's Councils as he sought for victory in the field now revealed. I am proud to be the wife of General Homma."

Gen. Homma Is Executed

Manila, April 3 (AP)—Japanese Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, who defied the Bataan death march and condoned other atrocities in the Philippines, died here today at a firing squad.

A black hood covered his head and over his heart was a four-inch round white target at which the 12 rifles were aimed.

At least one of the rifles and perhaps as many as four contained blanks. The men who fired will never know which of their shots had been harmless.

Army precision marked the grim, unobedient drama.

The firing squad stood 15 paces from the post as the guard marched up in double ranks, executing Homma. He stood erect, his arms round behind him. A chaplain walked nearby.

Not far away, the crew of an ambulance stood quietly waiting to receive the body.

The voice of the officer in command broke the stillness. He was reading the charge, finding and sentence.

Then Homma was tied to the post and the hood placed over his head. A moment later, the medical officer put the target over the heart of the stocky Japanese. The officer in charge raised his right arm. Twelve men unlocked their rifles.

They took aim as the arm dropped to a horizontal position.

"The arm snapped to the officer's side as he barked, "Fire!"

There was a sharp crack of rifles. Homma was dead.

The conqueror of Bataan and Corregidor surrendered to American occupation forces in Tokyo shortly after General MacArthur ordered his arrest on a "surrender war criminal."

Court Halted Appeal

Homma went on trial in Manila January 3, was convicted and sentenced to be shot. Soon after his conviction the U. S. Supreme Court turned down an appeal from the did it.

While on trial, Homma sent a message to Wataru Nishihori, chief of Japanese Cabinet. "I am a friend of long standing, saying that I know I cannot escape the death sentence. I have failed to fulfill my task with justice and charity. Now I do not blame anyone. What I think now is I must go to the earlier the better—in the place where Japanese soldiers fell and where American soldiers sleep."

"I must apologize to God for all my sins."

MacArthur refused to intervene in Homma's case, just as he had they done when the case of Japanese Lt. Gen. Pongyuki Yamashita came. The court in Manila later convicted Homma in the Philippines, Homma was hanged.

In upholding the commission's death decree for Homma, MacArthur declared he could find no circumstances of extenuation."

Head Of School For Blind Kiwanis Speaker

The Kiwanis Club held its weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesday at the Francis Scott Key Hotel, when the members and guests present heard a talk by the new superintendent of the Maryland School for the Blind, Francis M. Andrews.

The School for the Blind, of which the general public knows little, is located at Overlea, which is a part of Baltimore city. It differs from the most remote of its kind because it consists of four cottages instead of dormitories. These cottages house 86 white students, 25 colored blind children and 50 colored deaf students. By living in cottages the student receives training in housework just as he would if he were at home.

The school covers the educational field from kindergarten through high school and follows the system of the Baltimore public schools, since when the children finish the Maryland School for the Blind they take the final two years of high school in one of the city schools because it gives the child a forecast of what he will be up against when he gets away from home.



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