

THE JAPANESE MILITARY ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLAND ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY—THE PHILIPPINES IN TOTALITY WERE TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR WAR—DESPITE THE JAPANESE SUPERIORITY IN MANPOWER AND WEAPONS, THE FIL-AMERICAN FORCES HELD THE JAPANESE AT BAY FOR ALMOST FIVE MONTHS. HOLDING THE JAPANESE FORCES AT BAY FOR THIS PERIOD OF TIME GAVE THE UNITED STATES TIME TO SEND MANPOWER AND WEAPONS TO AUSTRALIA, ESSENTIALLY THE PHILIPPINE DEFENDERS SAVED AUSTRALIA FROM BEING INVADED BY THE JAPANESE MILITARY THEREBY SAVING COUNTLESS LIVES AND PERHAPS SHORTENING THE WAR BY AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. FOLLOWING "WAR PLAN ORANGE", THE TROOPS IN THE PHILIPPINES WERE KNOWINGLY SACRIFICED BY OUR GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO ASSIST ENGLAND IN ITS WAR WITH GERMANY. SUBSEQUENTLY, THOSE COURAGEOUS TROOPS IN THE PHILIPPINES BECAME PRISONERS OF WAR OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY AND WERE SEVERELY MISTREATED AND UTILIZED AS SLAVE LABORERS IN ITS WAR INDUSTRIES WHICH PRODUCED ARMAMENTS FOR ITS MILITARY THAT WERE USED AGAINST AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE FAR EAST. MANY POWs HAD BEEN ON THE NOTORIOUS DEATH MARCH UNDER CONDITIONS SO HORRIBLE THAT IT WAS BEYOND DESCRIPTION, THEN THERE WERE THE PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS SUCH AS O'DONNELL, CABANATUAN, AND BILIBID, WHERE HUNGER, DISEASE AND DEATH WERE RAMPANT. THEN THERE WERE THE HELL SHIPS, HELPLESS—BUT NOT HOPELESS—THEY WERE SQUEEZED INTO THE FILTHY COVERED HOLDS OF THE SHIPS AND LOCKED IN FOR SAFE KEEPING—DEVOID OF ANY COMFORTS. WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER, THEY SAILED THROUGH THE BATTLE INFESTED WATERS TO JAPAN. THREE UNMARKED PRISONER OF WAR TRANSPORTS WERE SUNK BY AMERICAN NAVAL FORCES WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF OVER 3000 AMERICANS. RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOW THAT THE JAPANESE MILITARY HAD APPROXIMATELY 27,465 AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS DURING WORLD WAR II. 11,635 DIED IN THESE INTERNMENT FACILITIES FROM EXECUTIONS, TORCHING, VIVISECTIONS, DECAPITATIONS, MALNUTRITION, STARVATION, AMONG OTHER CAUSES OF DEATH. EVEN TODAY THE SURVIVORS SUFFER FROM THE RESIDUAL AFFECTS OF THEIR INTERNMENT AS PRISONERS OF WAR.