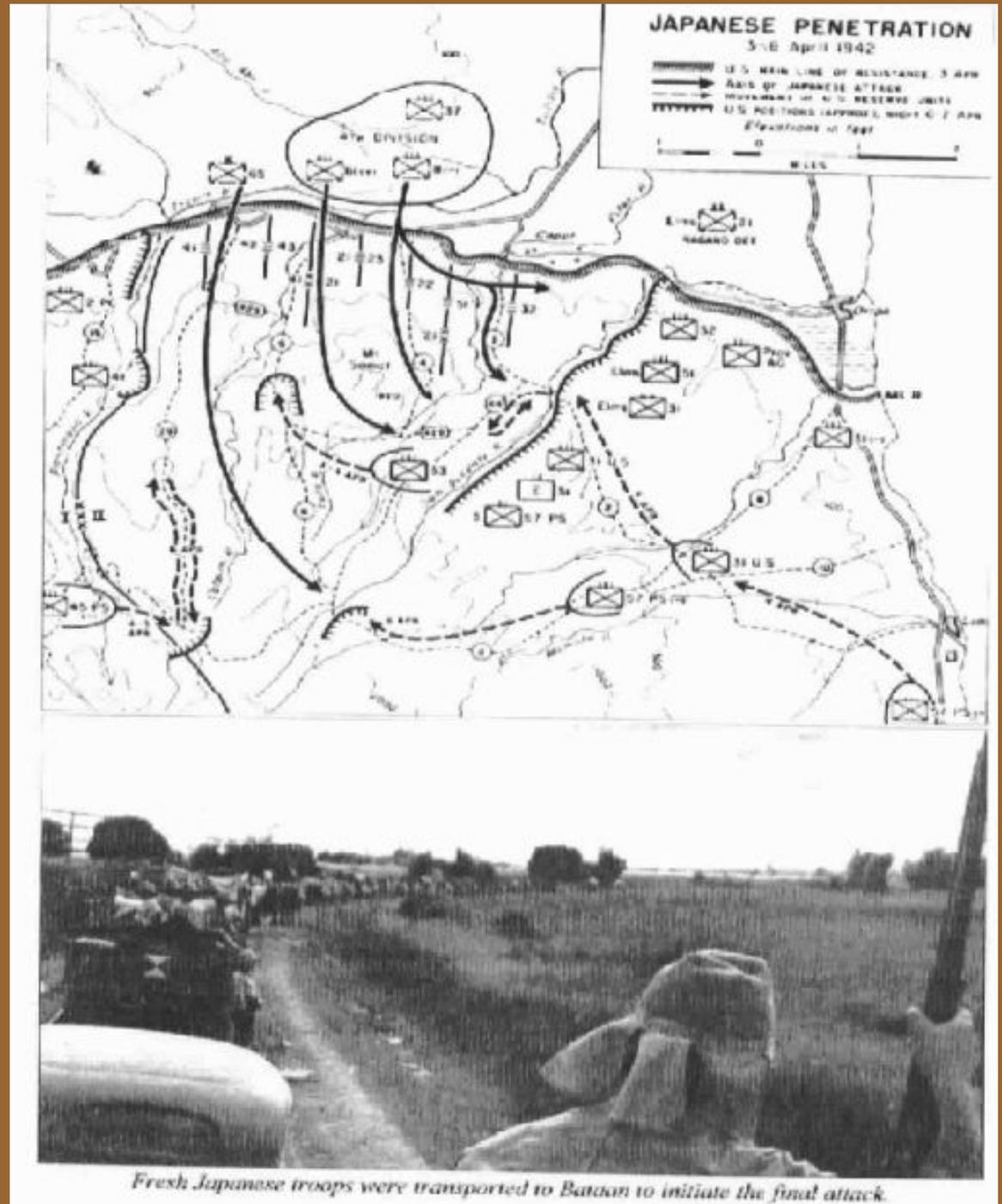


# Japanese Army Select April 3, 1942 For Final Offensive

Friday, April 3rd, was the day General Homma had selected to open his anticipated last offensive. Artillery fire and bombs from the Japanese aircraft caused tremendous havoc falling among the defending Fil-American troops. They broke the American line, swept aside the troops of Sector D, virtually destroying two Philippine Army divisions, and seized Mt. Samat.

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*Fresh Japanese troops were transported to Batuan to initiate the final attack.*

## Fil-American Engineers Destroy Bridges To Delay The Japanese Advance

The Fil-American forces had their engineers destroying bridges in front of the advancing Japanese forces. However, it did not do much good, the Japanese had a great superiority in troops and supplies.

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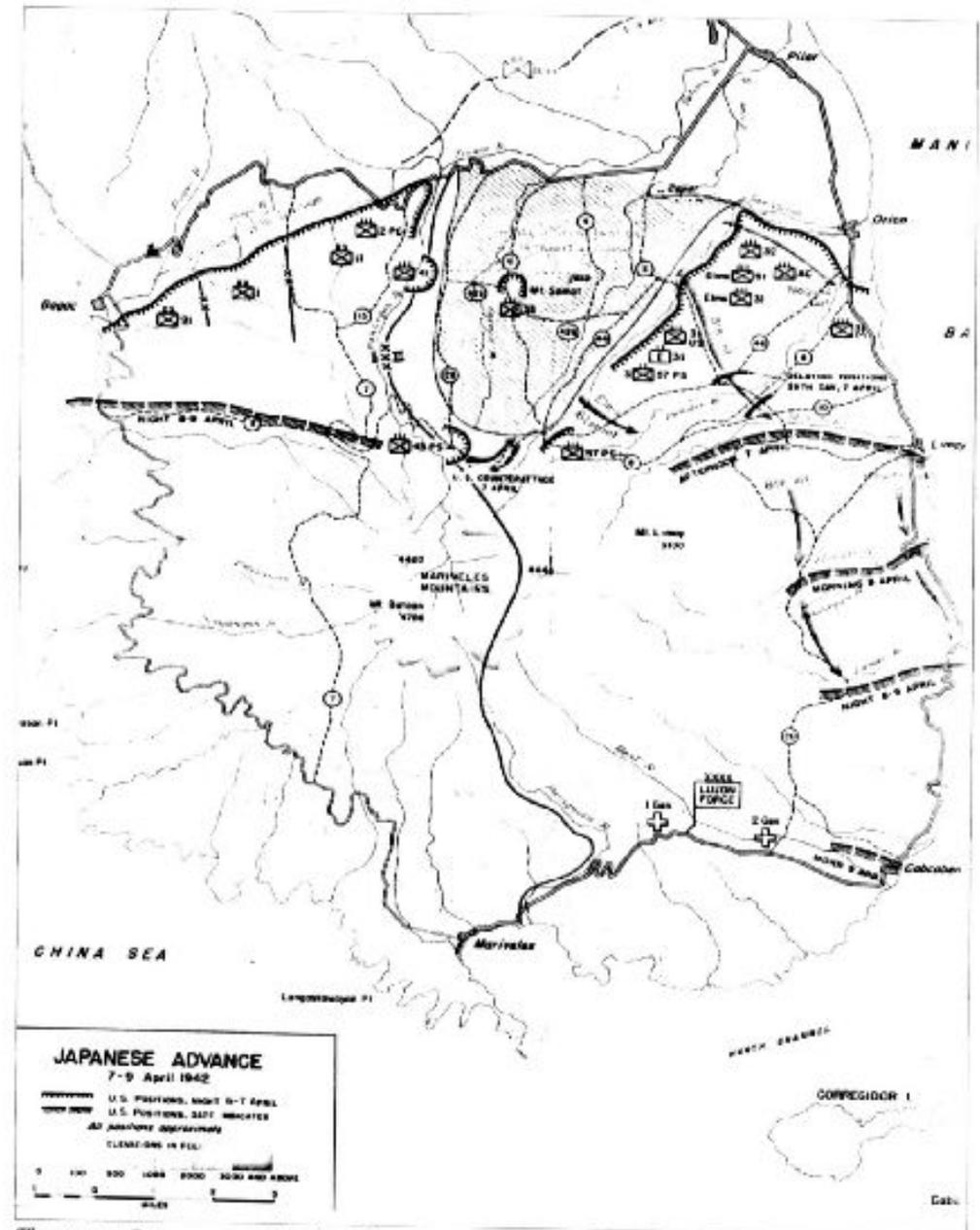
*Laying straw on a wooden bridge in preparation for burning the structure during the retreat on Bataan.*



*A steel bridge blown up by American engineers protecting the retreat of the Philippine defenders.*

# The Final Drive

The events of April 6th determined the fate of the Bataan garrison. On that day the weary American and Philippine troops made a desperate effort to drive back the enemy and regain the main line of resistance. At the same time, the Japanese launched a fresh offensive to the south and east. The two forces met head on and by evening, the issue had been decided. All efforts to stem the Japanese advance had been in vain. In a message to MacArthur on April 8th, Wainwright stated that the “tactical situation was fast deteriorating and the men were so weakened by hunger and disease that they had no power of resistance left. It is with deep regret that I am forced to report that the troops on Bataan are folding up.” Knowing that the Japanese could reach Mariveles by the evening of April 9th, General King decided to open negotiations with the Japanese for the conclusion of hostilities on Bataan.



*The men on Bataan were already defeated and had been for almost a week. Disease and starvation rather than military conditions had created the situation in which General King now found himself. Three months of malnutrition, malaria, and intestinal infections had left them weak and diseaseridden, totally incapable of sustained physical effort necessary for a successful defense of Bataan.*

APRIL 9, 1942  
THE LAST RADIO MESSAGE FROM  
CORREGIDOR'S "VOICE OF FREEDOM"

Bataan has fallen! The Philippine-American troops on this war ravaged and blood stained peninsula laid down their arms. With heads bloody but unbowed, they have yielded to superior forces and numbers of the enemy. The world will long remember the epic struggle that Filipino and Americans put up in the jungle vastness and along the coast of Bataan. They have stood up uncomplaining under the constant and grueling fire of the enemy for more than three months; besieged on land and blockaded by sea, cut off from all sources of help in the Philippines and America, the intrepid fighters have done all that human endurance could bear. For what sustained them through all these months of incessant battle was a force that was more than merely physical, it was a force of an unconquerable faith, something in the heart and soul that physical hardship could not destroy!

(Continued p 71)

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# THE LAST MESSAGE FROM THE VOICE OF FREEDOM ON CORREGIDOR APRIL 9, 1942

## CONTINUED

It was the thought of native land and all that it holds most dear, the thought of freedom, dignity, and pride in these most priceless of human perogatives. The adversary, in the pride of his power and triumph, will credit our troops with nothing less than courage and fortitude that his own have shown in battle. Our men have superhuman endurance with which they stood up until the last in the face of overwhelming odds. But the decision had come, men fighting under the banner of the unbreakable faith are made of impervious steel. The flesh may yield at last, endurance melts away, and the end of the battle must come. Bataan has fallen, but the spirit that made it stand — stands out as a beacon to all the liberty-loving peoples of the world--cannot fall!

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General King negotiating the surrender of Bataan with the Japanese Imperial Army on April 9, 1942. The battle for Bataan was ended. The men who had survived the long ordeal could feel justly proud of their accomplishments. For three months, they had held off the Japanese, only to be overwhelmed finally by disease and starvation.



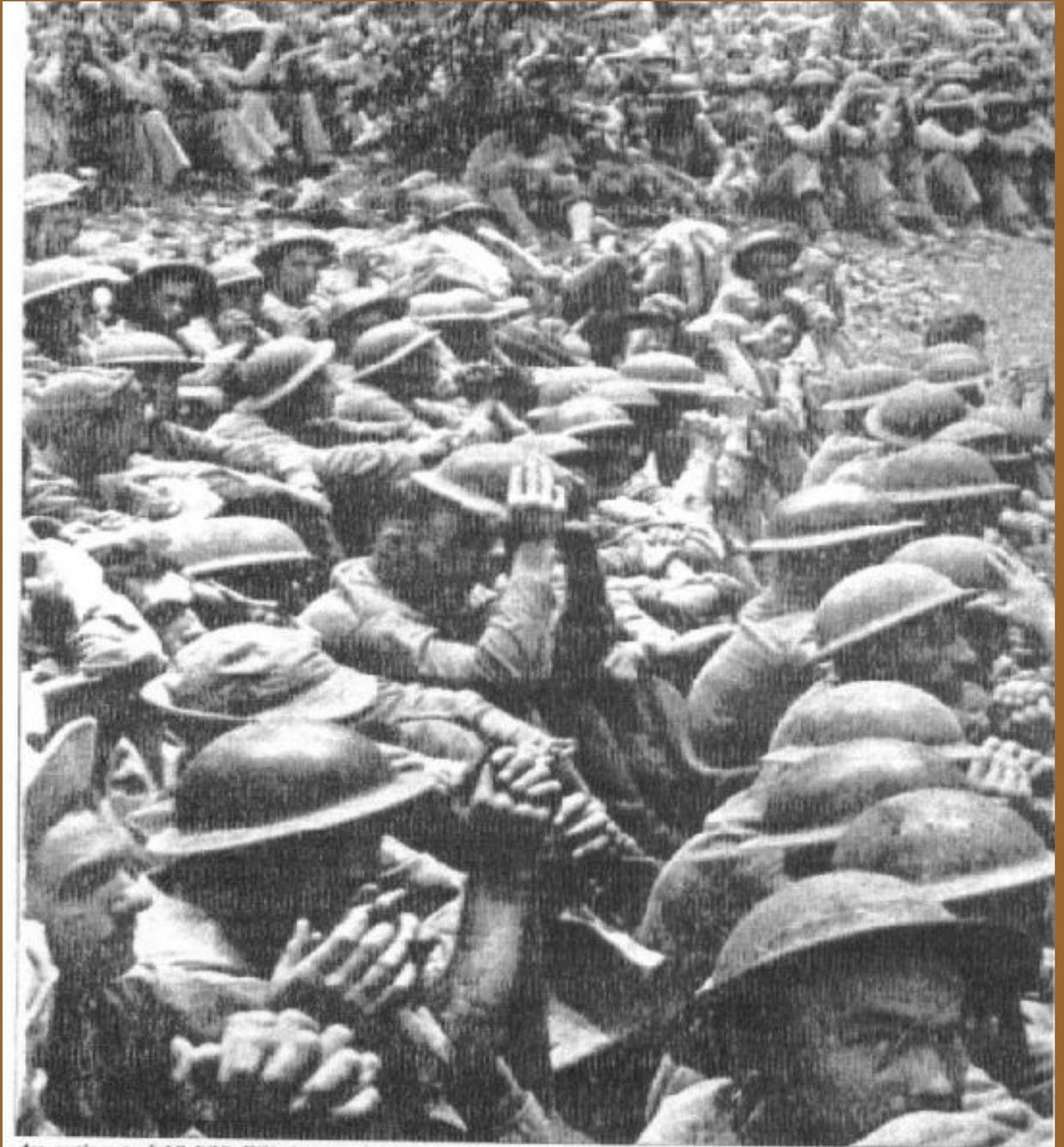
*Col. E.C. Williams, Maj. Gen. Edward P. King, Maj. Wade Cochran and Maj. Achille C. Tisdelle discuss surrender terms with Colonel Nakayama of the Japanese Staff. The fighting for Bataan was ended; the fighting was over. The men who had survived the long ordeal could feel justly proud of their accomplishment. For three months they had held off the Japanese, only to be overwhelmed finally by disease and starvation. In a very real sense theirs had been "a truly medical defeat," the inevitable outcome of a campaign of attrition, of "consumption without replenishment." Each man did his best and none need feel shame.*



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# Fil-American Troops Assemble On April 9, 1942

Troops assembling awaiting further instructions as to their future. The events that followed present a confused and chaotic story of the disintegration and dissolution of a starved, diseased, and beaten army. Unknown to them, they had been **SACRIFICED** by their government to hold the Japanese forces at bay until the United States armed Australia. These troops essentially saved Australia from an invasion. Such an invasion would have added at least an additional six months until the the complete defeat of the Japanese Imperial Army.



*An estimated 50,000 Filipino and 11,000 American troops gathered at various places on Batuan in accordance with the terms of the surrender.*

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Japanese Troops  
Harass Fil-American  
Prisoners Of War  
Forcing Them To Pose  
With Upheld Hands For  
Propaganda Purposes

Approximately 2,000 of the Fil-American forces escaped to Corregidor in small boats and barges. The remainder of General King's force of approximately 60,000 Filipinos and 11,000 American troops were left behind to the tender mercy of the Japanese forces. In a very real sense, these troops had suffered a "medical defeat", the inevitable outcome of a campaign of attrition, and "Consummation with out replenishment." Each man had done his best and none need feel shame.

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*American and Filipino troops gather prior to the "Death March".*



# Japanese Troops Continue Universal Harassment Of American Prisoners War

**The Fil-American troops  
were searched and forced to  
pose for the photographer  
with their upheld hands.**

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*Japanese soldiers making American prisoners of war raise their hands for the camera*