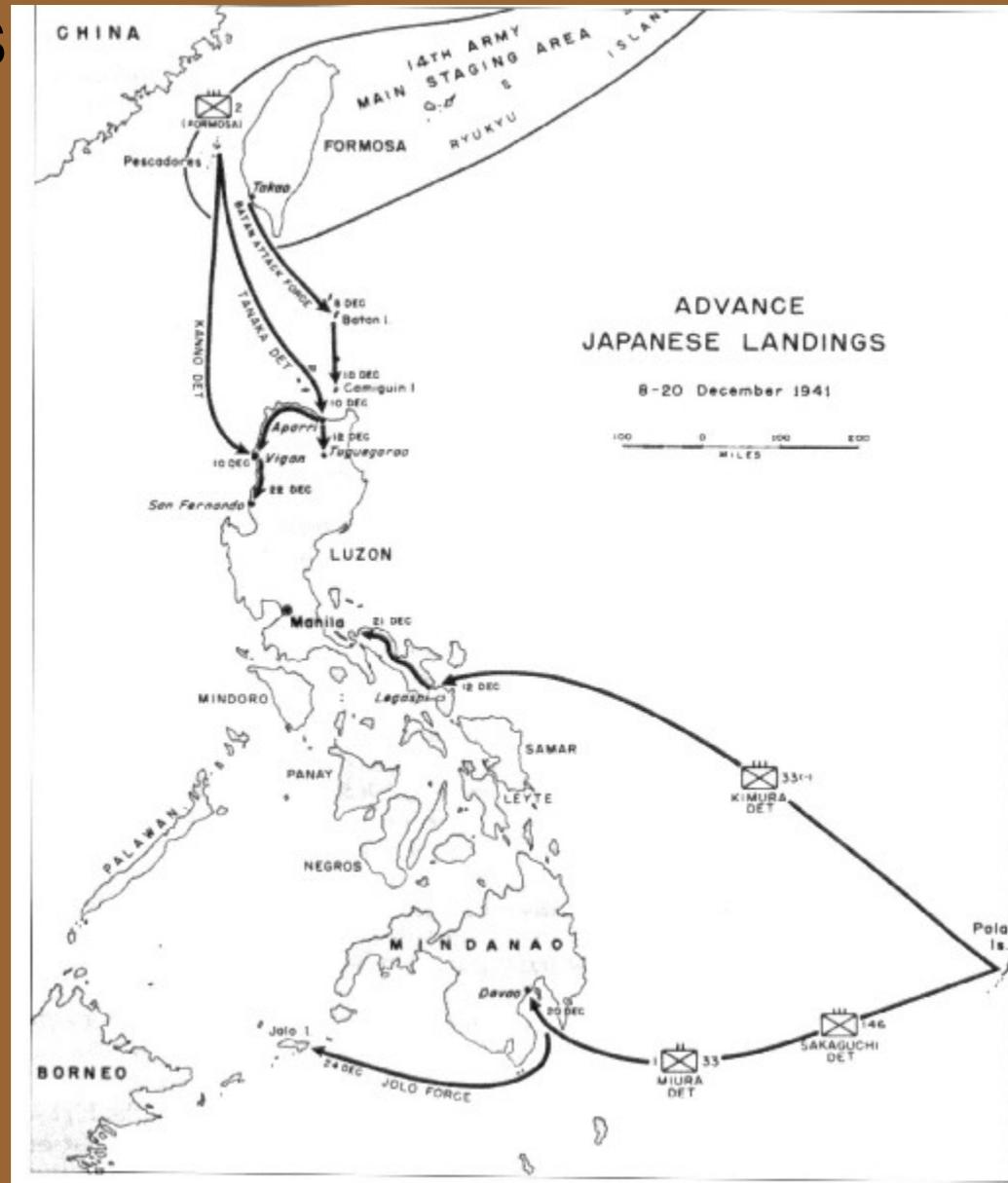


JAPANESE LANDINGS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Japanese forces began its invasion of the Philippine Islands on December 8, 1941 with a landing at Batan Island, just north of Luzon. The second landing was at Aparri and Vigan on December 10th. On December 12th, Japanese forces landed at Legaspi and on December 21st, the main landing was at Lingayan Bay. The final landing was on December 20th at the southern most city of the Philippines, Davao, on the Island of Mindanao.

B-17s and P-40s attacked the landing parties where feasible with little damage inflicted. The most notable event was Captain Colin Kelly's bombing run on December 10th near Aparri wherein he damaged a large Japanese naval vessel.



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JAPANESE TROOPS LANDING IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Japanese forces landing at Bataan Island on December 8, 1941 and at Aparri on December 10, 1941. The American commanders correctly interpreted these landing as diversions for the main Japanese landing attack and refused to commit their forces. B-17 air attacks could not significantly delay the Japanese assault.

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Japanese soldiers land at Bataan Island—Philippines most northern possession on December 8, 1941. The Japanese then immediately constructed an air strip on the Island.



Japanese forces land at Aparri and Vigan on December 10, 1941

B-17 bomber attacking the landing party at Vigan on December 10th.

The next move came in the South. Early on the morning of December 12, 1941, the Japanese landed 2500 men of the 16th Division at Legaspi on Southern Luzon. By neutralizing U.S. air and naval power in the Philippines in the first forty-eight hours of war, the Japanese had gained a position never anticipated in our defense forces plans. Defense of the Philippines now relied on the ground force, which at the time had no lines of supply or escape..

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The Japanese ships at Vigan were attacked by B-17's and P-40's. Minor damage was inflicted on the invading ships. Near Aparri, Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. received the Distinguished Service Cross for damaging one of the invading Japanese ships. Captain Kelly was killed when his returning plane was shot down near Clark Field.



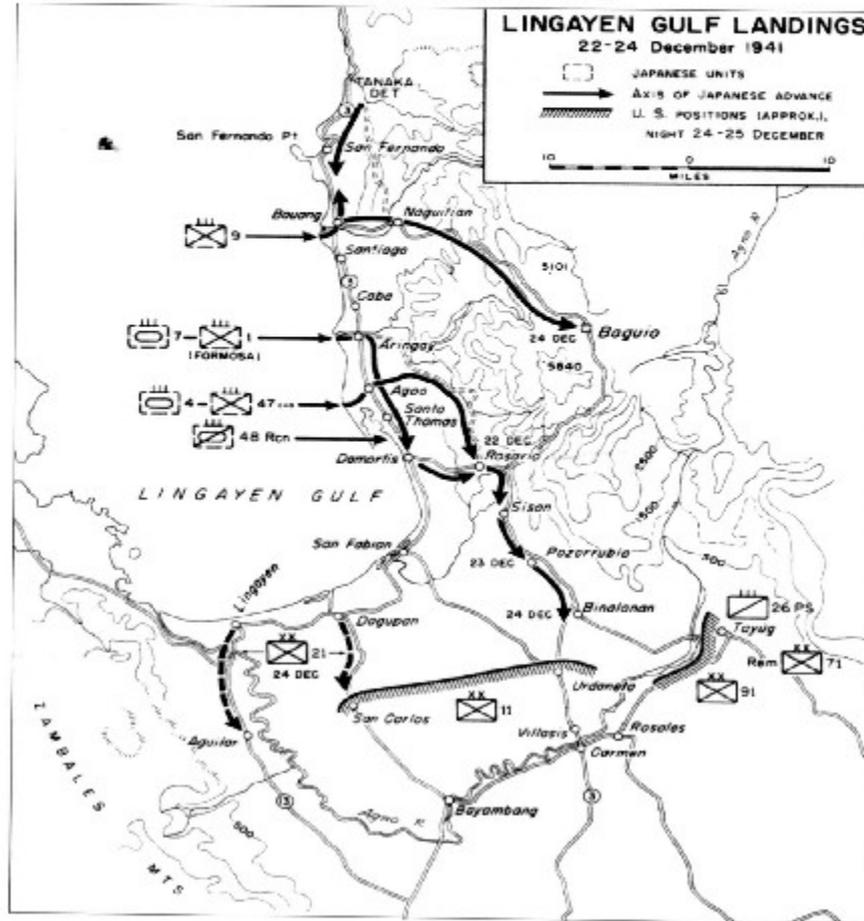
Later Japanese landings were at Legaspi on December 12 and Davao on December 20, 1941.

LINGAYEN BAY

The long awaited main attack began early on the morning of December 22 as the 43,110 men of General Homma's 14th Army entered Lingayen Gulf. The success of the Japanese landings at Lingayen and Lamon Bay ended all hopes for an American victory in the Philippines. Only one day after the landing to the north, on December 23 General MacArthur decided he would have to fall back to Bataan and fight a delaying action until help could arrive. Undoubtedly, the chief reason for the withdrawal order was the failure of the the troops to hold back the enemy. Despite the heroic struggle by the 26th Cavalry Scouts and the tank unit, the Japanese had established a firm grip on Northern Luzon.



Main landing at Lingayen Bay on December 21, 1941. Seventy-six Japanese Army and nine Naval transports unloaded 43,110 troops during landing at Lingayen.. The Japanese task force also had 2 battleships, 4 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser, 2 seaplane carriers, and a force of destroyers.

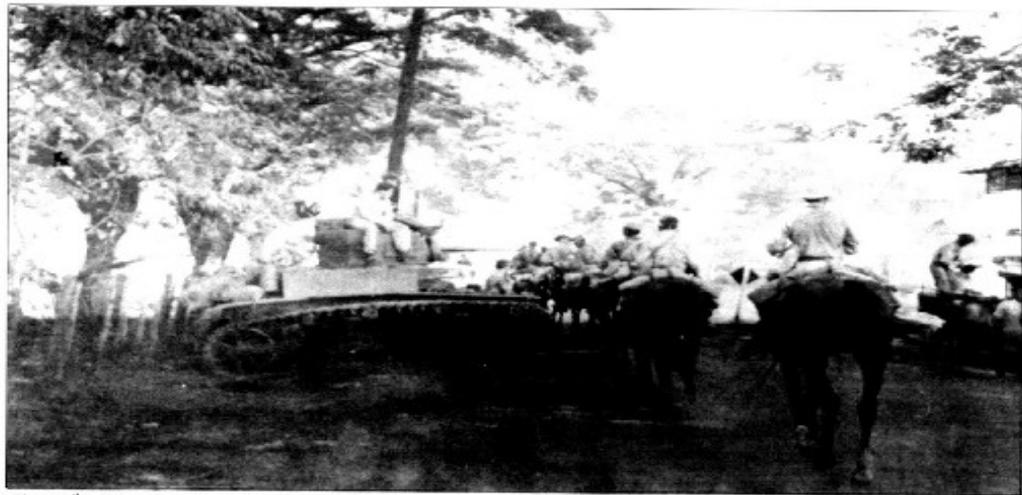


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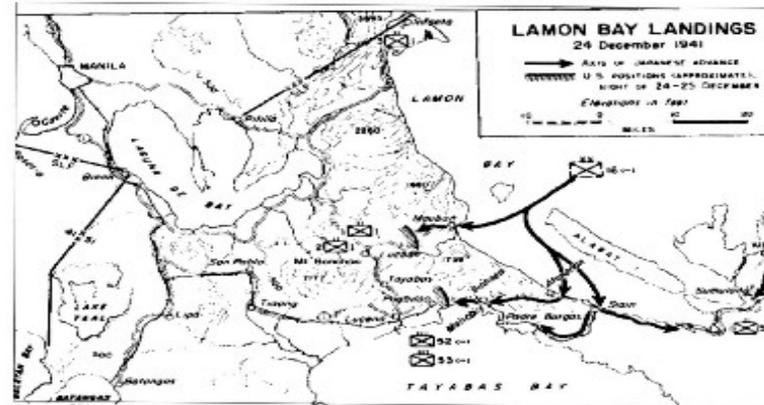
FIL-AMERICAN DEFENSE FORCES DEFEND LINGAYEN

The 26th Cavalry Scouts and the 192nd Tank Battalion had been sent to the Lingayen area to assist in holding the Japanese landing force. Despite the heroic efforts of these forces, the Japanese troops were superior in strength and forced the Fil-American troops to withdraw. This forced the evacuation of air corps personnel at Clark Field into Bataan.

The Japanese landing south of Manila at Legaspi was a pincer movement with Japanese troops coming from the north and now the Legaspi landing in the south in an attempt by the Japanese to bottle up the Fil-American troops in the Manila area for an easy victory.



The 26th Philippine Scout Cavalry, the 192nd Tank Battalion, and a regiment of Philippine Army troops were sent to the Lingayen area in an attempt to contain the Japanese landing force. Despite the heroic efforts of these forces, the Japanese troops were superior in strength and forced the Fil-American troops to withdraw. This forced the evacuation of air corps personnel at Clark Field into Bataan.

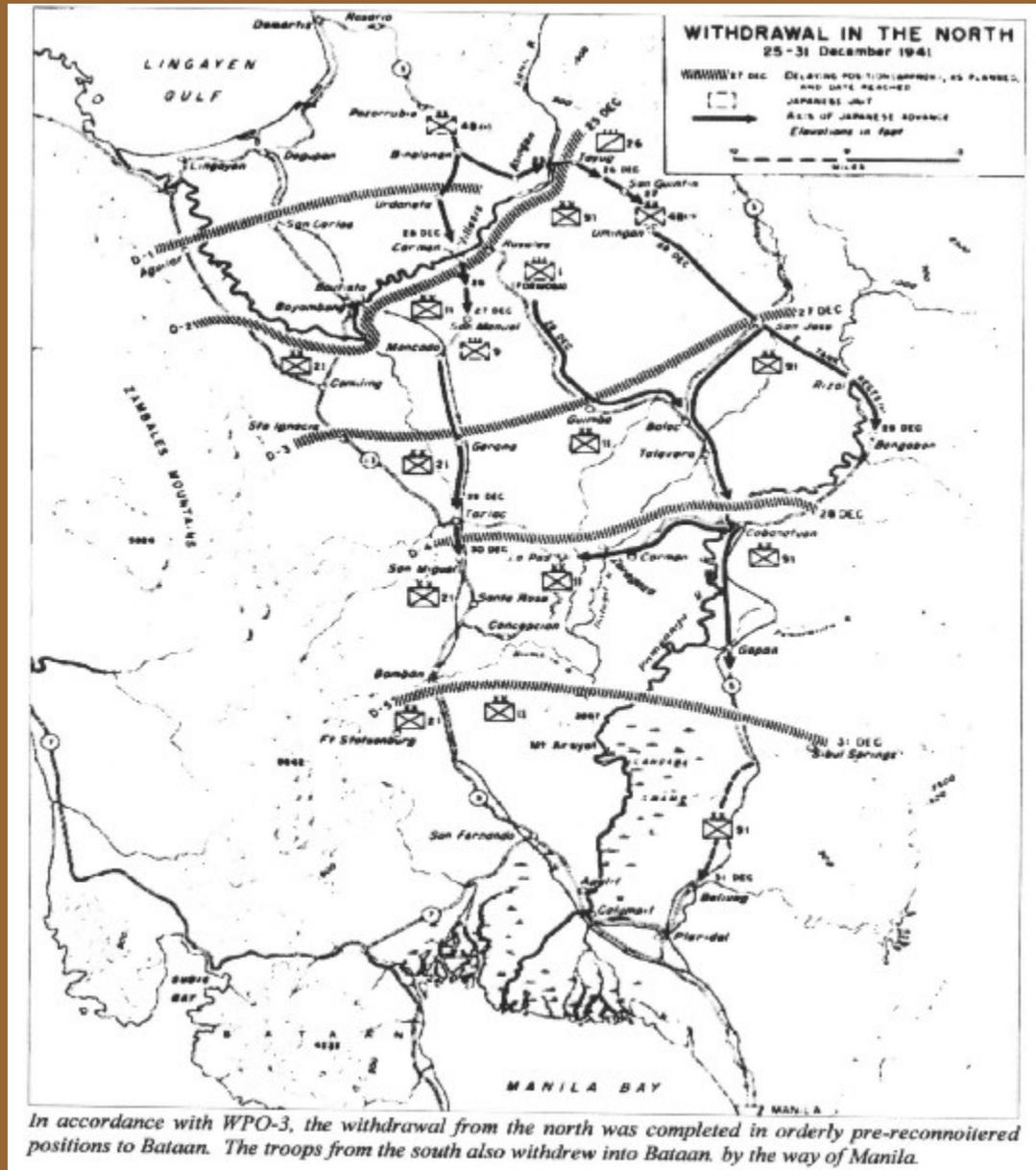


On December 24, 1941, Japanese forces landed at Lamon Bay south of Manila and initiated a drive north toward Manila.

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WITHDRAWAL TO BATAAN

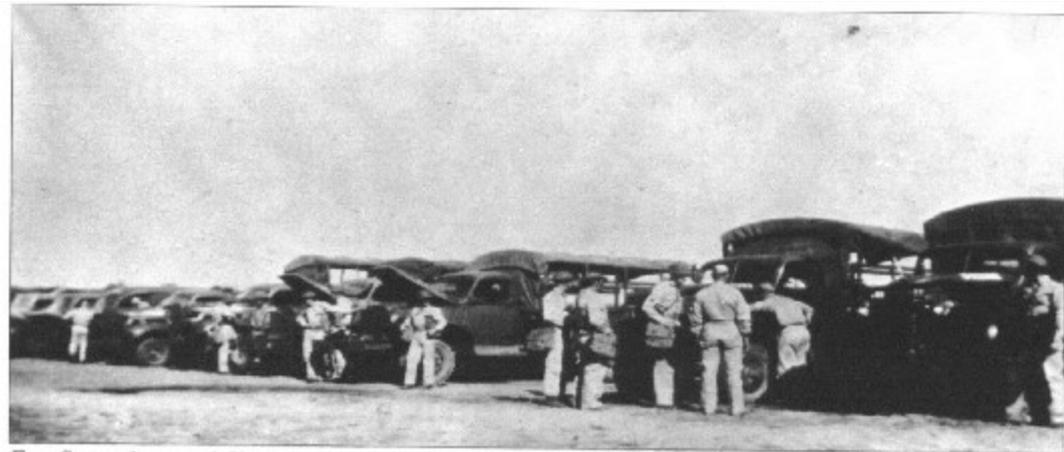
The withdrawal in the north was to be in five phases. On each line, Wainwright's troops were to hold only long enough to force the enemy to prepare for an organized attack. The plan for the withdrawal of the forces in the north and south Luzon called for a difficult maneuver, requiring accurate timing and the closest coordination. Under desperate circumstances and under constant pressure from the enemy, General MacArthur had successfully brought his forces from the north and south into Bataan to defend the peninsula. There were a little over ten thousand American troops and approximately sixty thousand Filipino troops (mostly untrained) available to defend Bataan.



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EVACUATING CLARK FIELD & MANILA

American troops at Clark Field readying their vehicle for evacuation in to Bataan on December 24, 1941. In an attempt to save the city of Manila from further destruction, General MacArthur declared it an OPEN CITY, which meant that it would not be defended by Fil-American troops. It also meant the Japanese troops could enter Manila without any casualties. Meanwhile, on the nights of 24th and 25th, MacArthur moved his USAFFE headquarters and the Philippine government to Corregidor.



Fort Stotsenberg and Clark Air Base had to evacuate to the Bataan Peninsula on December 24, 1941 due to the Japanese forces that landed at Lingayen Bay heading toward their bases.



Manila was declared an "Open City" on December 26, 1941 to spare it from destruction by air raids.

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