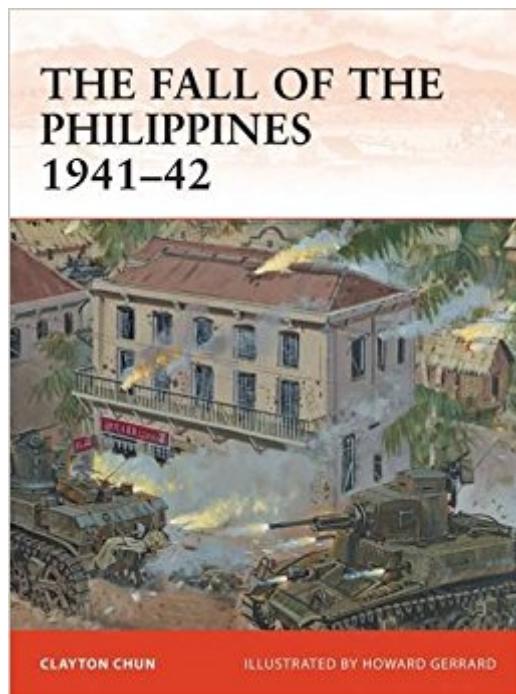


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# The Fall Of The Philippines 1941–42 (Campaign)



## Synopsis

The Philippine Islands were one of two major US bases in the Pacific, the other being Pearl Harbor. The Japanese considered the capture of the Philippines crucial for its efforts to control resource-laden Southeast Asia. As opposed to its attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese intention was to invade and occupy the Philippines in a campaign that was to last five months. The flamboyant Douglas MacArthur, a hero of World War I and former Chief of Staff led the defense of the Philippines when the Japanese attacked on 8 December 1941. Despite warnings about the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese air forces caught MacArthur's aircraft on the ground resulting in half of his modern bomber and fighter aircraft destroyed. Army Air Forces B-17s attempted to bomb Formosa, but Japanese fighters eliminated them and a Japanese full-scale invasion followed days later. Japanese forces landed in northern Luzon from Formosa. B-17s and naval attacks tried in vain to stop the invasion, but failed. Poorly trained and equipped Philippine Army units could not halt the Japanese and the American and Filipino forces withdrew, even though they outnumbered the initial Japanese forces. Japanese Army units broke through several defensive lines as they drove on to Manila, which was abandoned by the Americans as MacArthur withdrew to Bataan. The Japanese gradually reduced this pocket until the only American position was Corregidor Island. MacArthur left for Australia, as a direct order from President Franklin Roosevelt and was awarded the Medal of Honor, one of the more controversial aspects of the campaign. With little hope of survival, Corregidor fell, with organized resistance ending on 9 May 1942. Although a defeat, the American and Filipino defensive efforts upset the Japanese plan for a swift victory and provided time for Australia and the United States to build up their defenses. It also gave hope to the American public that Americans could stand up to Japan, with the "Battling Bastards of Bataan" providing a source of inspiration. Unfortunately, for the survivors of the campaign, it meant a grueling three years of captivity for some. The Bataan Death March was one of the most infamous events in World War II, with Japanese forces responsible for the deaths of about 600 Americans and between 5,000-10,000 Filipino soldiers dying in the march, some summarily executed by beheading.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This powerful focus allows for an in-depth coverage of all events during the Philippines campaign.” James A. Cox, *The Midwest Book Review* (August 2012) “...a great account dealing with the capitulation of the Philippine Islands in early 1942 ... As with every Osprey book, [The Fall of the Philippines] comes complete with exceptionally detailed maps and excellent illustrations and photographs -- a great book, especially for those just starting to learn about World War II.” WWII History Magazine (September 2012)

Clayton K.S. Chun, Ph.D., is on the U.S. Army War College faculty at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania where he teaches courses on national security, strategy, and economics. He completed a military career in the U.S. Air Force and has published work in the fields of national security, military history, and economics.

I have never read a detailed account of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. This book gives a basic account of the campaign, which is its intent. I found it enlightening, but it gave rise to a number of questions which would require a larger volume to consider. The interesting to me would have been a more complete explanation of why the United States was so ill prepared to face the Japanese attack when it had been contemplated by American military experts for nearly thirty years and expected since the outbreak of WWII. There were also questions about McArthur's performance and the failure of the relatively strong U. S. Army Airforce contingents to respond effectively that I would have liked to see addressed in greater depth.

I am in the process of reading the book right now and it has some very interesting stories. The book brings to light some very interesting stories and anyone who is interested in World War 2 and prisoner stories, would be interested in reading it. The only draw back, so far, is that some of the

stories could have a little more detail and a continuation of what the men, who did escape, did after they had rejoined their forces.

Great item and service! A++++++

This booklet from Osprey Publishing is a good account of the Fall of the Philippines in World War II. The only drawback is that it doesn't cover all parts of the 1941-42 Philippine Campaign equally. The first part of campaign is covered extensively while the encirclement and siege of Bataan is covered in less detail. Overall, I would recommend this book as a good introduction to the Philippines Campaign of 1942-42.

The book covers the defense of all the islands. Also the confusion when Bataan surrenders without notice. Did General Wainwright have the authority to surrender all islands to the Japanese?

Interesting short overview of the taking of the Philippine Islands by the Japanese in WW II. Great pictures and battlefield maps. Haven't actually read the book yet though skimming through it, I can say that for a short history it seems very well researched and is factual. Overall I am pleased with this book but I do wish it were a hardcover.

good

Good book on a little known campaign (in the USA) where the Phillipine Army (in process of forming) and US Army and Air Forces in the Philippines were led into defeat by General MacArthur. 7 hours after Pearl Harbor in the morning of the 8th Dec 42 the US Army Air Force planes were caught on the ground, just as at Pearl. The Japanese then invaded with a smaller army and pushed the American and Philippine Armies. MacArthur couldn't coordinate his forces nor use his superiority in armor to stop the Japanese (whose Naval and Army Air Forces now ruled the skies). Ordered his troops into Bataan BUT hadn't put any of the Army's supplies there ahead of time or before issuing the retreat orders. Well written. Will open some eyes. Recommend

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