

1431 Lopez

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE THEATER JUDGE ADVOCATE
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

APO 500
11 October 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report # 71)
THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch
SUBJECT: Bombing of Manila

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

On 26 December 1941, Manila was declared an open and undefended city. The announcement was published in the local press, broadcast over the radio in English and Tagalog, and announced throughout the streets of Manila by trucks with loudspeakers. On the night of the 26th, all the lights of the city were turned on. The text of the announcement was cabled to the United States on the same day (R 10, 11). On 27 December 1941, between 1200 and 1330 hours approximately twenty-one (21) Japanese bombers, copies of the American Douglas DC-2 bomber, plainly marked with the rising sun on their fuselages and wings, flew low over Intramuros. Erik W. FRIMAN, a pilot in the First World War, and later a test pilot for Douglas Aircraft and Lockheed Aircraft Companies, estimated the altitude of the first three planes at approximately twenty eight hundred (2800) feet (R 11, 12, 13). The following succeeding waves of three planes each flew over at less than one thousand (1000) feet (# 13). These planes probably flew from a base on Formosa. After the raid, Radio Tokyo broadcast "Our land-based planes from Formosa made another successful raid at Manila" (R 14). The estimated fuel capacity of the planes, coupled with the distance of available and adequate Japanese landing strips, also indicate that Formosa was the probable base for this raid (R 14). The bombs dropped on Intramuros were 100 and 300 pound bombs (R 15). The Santo Domingo Church, Letran College, Santa Rosa College, Santa Catalina College, the Intendencia Building, and Santo Tomas University were struck by Japanese bombs on 27 and 28 December 1941 (R 13, 18). Many other buildings, including the DMHM Building (Herald Building), Intramuros Elementary School Building, and a large block of houses between Santa Catalina, Beaterio and Solano Streets, were destroyed by fire as a result of the bombings (R 13, 18, 19, 47). Estimates of the number of planes engaged in the raids on 27 and 28 December vary, but it is believed that approximately twenty-one (21) planes were used on each occasion. Estimates by expert witnesses of the extent of property damage in Intramuros resulting from the bombing raids are included in the record (R 4-6, 32, 84-87, 97, 98; Ex. P). The total estimated damage was P1,077,538.00. This estimate does not include private residences destroyed by fire.

Philippines - Atrocities

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