





U.S. PLANES FROM AUSTRALIA RAID MANILA, SINK JAPANESE SHIPS AT CEBU AND DAVAO (4/16/42)

Microfilm-New York Times archives, Monterey Public Library | 4/16/42 | Clark Lee, David Anderson, Hanson W. Baldwin

Posted on Monday, April 16, 2012 6:27:50 AM by Homer J. Simpson

BOMBERS FLY FAR

Sink at Least 4 Ships on Flights Up to 4,000 Miles Round Trip

PLANES, HANGARS RUINED

One Flying Fortress Lost, but Crew Saved—Several U. S. Officers Brought Back

Rescued by Raiders In Philippines Flight

UNITED STATES ARMY HEADQUARTERS, in Australia, Thursday, April 16 (AP)—General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today the names of twenty-five service men and civilians who were brought to Australia yesterday by the American bomber squadron returning from the attack on Japanese bases in the Philippine Islands. Among them was Captain Jesus Villamore, the Filipino flying ace.

Others among the first names issued were:

Frank Hewlett, United Press correspondent, Pocatello, Idaho.

Nat Floyd, NEW YORK TIMES correspondent.

Lieut. Gen. Chi Wang, Chinese liaison officer with the Bataan forces.

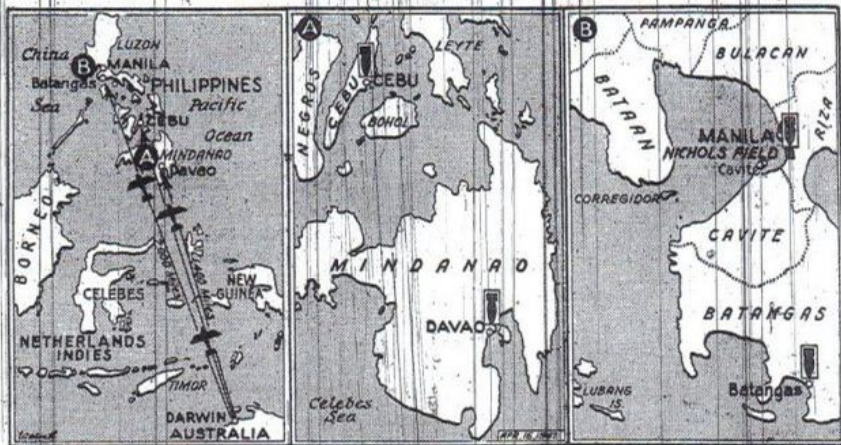
Also listed with Captain Villamore, who won the Distinguished Service Cross for his exploits in the Philippines, were these Air Corps officers:

Colonel Charles Bachus, Captain Joseph Moore, Captain Henry Thorne, Captain Harvey Whitfield and Lieutenants Wienant, Thomas, Gerrity and Conley.

The party also included four enlisted men in the Signal Corps, three bombardiers and five navigators—enlisted men and non-commissioned officers.

By The United Press.  
AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, Australia, April 15—Thirteen United States Army bombers, in a devastating sweep across the Philippines, have sunk

AMERICANS DEAL SURPRISE LONG-DISTANCE AERIAL BLOW



Thirteen United States bombers, taking off from Australia, sank three transports and . . . blasted hangars and runways, hit two at Cebu; hit two more, ways at Nichols Field, hard by destroyed a bomber and attacked Manila, and sank a supply ship miles to the Philippines and . . . troops at Davao. They also . . . at Batangas, a port to the south.

LEADERS IN U. S. RAID ON JAPANESE BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES



Lieut. Col. J. H. Davies  
Associated Press Wirephoto  
(U. S. Army Air Corps)



Brig. Gen. Ralph Royce  
The Commander  
The New York Times  
(U. S. Army Air Corps)



Captain Frank P. Bostrom  
Associated Press Wirephoto  
(U. S. Army Air Corps)



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or damaged eight Japanese ships, shot down five airplanes and damaged many more, and returned with some evacuees from the beleaguered islands, it was announced here tonight.

The first outside blow struck for the liberation of the islands was led by Brig. Gen. Ralph Royce, one of America's greatest air experts, and official reports said it created "dismay and destruction" at four of the main Japanese bases.

At Nichols Field, outside Manila, the United States fliers destroyed hangars and runways.

At Batangas, a South Luzon Island port, they sank a ship laden with military supplies.

## Three Transports Sunk

Farther south, at Cebu, capital of the island where American troops were still fighting this week, three Japanese transports were sunk, two others were hit, several near misses were scored on other vessels, three planes were shot down and several were damaged on the ground.

[A Washington communiqué describing the raid said the airfield at Cebu City was attacked and that the docks there were hit and damaged.]

At Davao, on Southeastern Mindanao, 650 miles below Manila, the Americans destroyed one Japanese bomber, damaged several others, bombed two transport ships, one of which probably sank; shot down one seaplane and damaged two more and blasted troop concentrations, docks and warehouses.

Only one American plane was lost; its crew was saved.

That is the story of the first retaliatory blow against the Philippine invaders, the forerunner of General Douglas MacArthur's promised offensive to sweep the Japanese out of the whole Southwest Pacific.

Although the planes had the advantage of hidden advance bases,

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When You Think of Writing Think of Writing—Advt.

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they were operating, at Manila, more than 2,000 miles from Australia. Tokyo is 3,400 miles from Australia and the vital Japanese island of Formosa is less than 600 miles from Manila.

The results as well as the potentialities demonstrated by the raid cheered Americans at headquarters here as has no event of the war.

## Daring Move Royce's Idea

It was one of the most courageous enterprises ever conceived against the Axis—a 4,000-mile round trip over open seas infested with enemy forces—and officials here revealed that General Royce organized it and persisted in leading it against the advice of experienced combat pilots, who said it was foolhardy. Three B-17 Flying Fortresses and ten B-25 medium bombers were in the raiding party.

Striking out Saturday from bases in Australia, the raiders landed at air fields "much nearer the targets" and ranged over the Philippine Islands Monday and Tuesday.

The one plane lost, a Flying Fortress, was piloted by Captain Frank P. Bostrom, whose home town was not identified. He saved himself and his crew. The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to him, along with General Royce, on their return here tonight.

The number of persons evacuated from the Philippines by the planes was not revealed. They reported that the casualties on Corregidor Island, at the entrance to Manila Bay, did not exceed eleven to fifteen daily, that morale ran high, and that the defenders had enough food for a month and ample water.

There was no immediate report on where the evacuees were picked up or how many there were. Although General Royce personally commanded the raid he did not pilot a plane on the bombing attacks because the one he intended to fly was grounded by engine defects, it was reported.

A communiqué from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters was lavish in praise of General Royce, a native of Marquette, Mich., and one of America's ablest bomber pilots. Lieut. Gen. George H. Brett, General MacArthur's deputy supreme commander in charge of United Nations air forces, whom General Royce serves as Chief of Staff, said:

"General Royce volunteered and was selected to command this most important mission.

"His accomplishment undoubtedly will be told in detail at a later date, but I now desire to point out that he typified again the tremendous importance of the air arm.

"He demonstrated to the highest degree the spirit of offensive action so vital to the winning of any military conflict.

"He took the flight into enemy territory, created dismay and destruction at a time most important to our forces, and has returned.

"I cannot too highly emphasize my pride in the work accomplished by American air forces participating."

General Brett added that "the exacting requirements of preparation under the restrictions and

limitations imposed upon our forces by lack of equipment and maintenance facilities tremendously increased the difficulties."

## In Fulfillment of Pledge

AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, Australia, April 15 (AP)—In the most spectacular aerial thrust of the Pacific war, thirteen United States Army bombers crossed the vast stretches from Australia and heavily assaulted Japanese bases on three Philippine Islands to redeem before the world the first installment of General Douglas MacArthur's pledge that the invader would yet be cast out of his lodgements there.

The raid was commanded by Brig. Gen. Ralph Royce, whose triumphant arrival back in Australia at the head of his squadron was announced tonight. Just as he climbed from his plane the General, by the direction of President Roosevelt, received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Major Gen. Rush Lincoln making the presentation in behalf of Lieut. Gen. George H. Brett, United Nations' air commander for the Southwest Pacific.

Decorated with the cross too were Lieut. Col. John Hubert Davies of Piedmont, Calif., and Captain Frank P. Bostrom, a native of Maine and an alumnus of that State's University.

## BRIG. GEN. ROYCE, 52, A WORLD WAR FLIER

Leader of Raid on Japanese in Philippines a West Point Man

WASHINGTON, April 15 (UP)—

Brig. Gen. Ralph Royce, who led American bombers from Australia in their raid on Japanese bases in the Philippines, is a 52-year-old native of Marquette, Mich., and was graduated from West Point in 1914.

He saw service with the punitive expedition into Mexico in 1916 as a pioneer flier, and commanded the first American aerial squadron sent to France in 1917. He won the French Croix de Guerre for bravery while commanding the first aerial squadron in the Toul sector in 1918.

General Royce is a graduate of the Air Corps Tactical School, Langley Field, Va.; Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the Army War College.

On July 1, 1937, he was named Philippine Department Air Officer, with headquarters at Manila. He served there until June, 1939, when he became commanding officer of the Seventh Bombardment Group, first at Hamilton Field, Calif., and later at Fort Douglas, Utah. More recently he was military attaché for air in London, having been appointed July 25, 1941.

General Royce served two different periods as commander of the First Pursuit Group at Selfridge Field, Mich. The first was from 1928 to 1930 and the second from 1934 to 1937.

## FOE REPORTS BOMBING OF MINDANAO, CEBU

Japanese Also Tell of Heavy Shelling of Corregidor Isle

TOKYO, April 15 (From Japanese Broadcast Recorded by The United Press in San Francisco and New York)—Japanese naval planes bombed on Monday three airfields on Mindanao, big southern island of the Philippines, and Japanese Army planes bombed and machine-gunned troops fleeing to the mountains from Cebu City, on the island of Cebu, north of Mindanao, press dispatches said today.

The airfields raided on Mindanao were at Cagayan, on the north-west coast; Del Monte, about thirteen miles to the southeast; and Malaybalay, twenty-nine miles farther to the southeast, said the dispatches, which added that Army barracks on the outskirts of Malaybalay also were bombed.

Japanese big guns, mounted on the coast of Bataan "relentlessly hammered away" yesterday at Corregidor fortress, inflicting serious damage on fortifications, Domei, Japanese news agency, said today in a dispatch from the Philippines.

## More Italians Go to Germany

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, April 15—It is reported from Milan this evening that the first contingents of an eventual 38,000 workers "recruited" in the region for German industry, left for Vienna this afternoon. The remainder will be transported northward during the next ten days.

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### Col. Davies Describes Blow; Shipping 'Plastered to Bits'

By The Associated Press.

AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, Australia, Thursday, April 16—Lieut. Col. John Hubert Davies, who led one group of the United States Army bombers that attacked Japanese bases in the Philippines Monday and Tuesday, said today: "We smacked hell out of them and gained at least a little revenge for members of our squadron who fought in the front trenches in Bataan."

Colonel Davies and his crew had hoped to reach their objectives in time to relieve their friends on the Bataan front, but found that Bataan already had fallen and many of their friends were missing, killed, wounded or captured. Consequently they pressed home the attacks with complete disregard of their own safety.

"Our group downed at least one and possibly two seaplanes at Davao and sank one large ship and numerous smaller ones," said Colonel Davies, who comes from Piedmont, Calif. "At Cebu we plastered to bits the shipping and the waterfront."

All the attacks, he said, were made in the face of heavy and quite accurate anti-aircraft fire, through which all the American planes emerged unscathed.

In the attack at Davao, Colonel Davies said, the planes dropped full loads on the ships in the harbor, sinking a number of small vessels which appeared to be fishing boats but all of which had their guns ablaze.

"I sighted a Japanese seaplane—resembling our warship planes with a long float beneath the fuselage—just taking off," said Colonel Davies. "I called the bombardier over the telephone. 'Hub,' I said, 'see that baby? I'm going down to give you a crack at him.'"

"I put our big ship into a dive. We were doing some 300 miles an hour when we came level with the Jap to let the bomber shoot."

"Our midship guns opened up, and I saw pieces of fuselage tearing out of that Rising Sun Jap plane, which was less than 100 feet away. Also what looked like smoke until I realized it was the rear gunner in the two-place Jap plane per-

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ping at us. I upped the throttles and told our rear gunner to cut

loose. He did, cutting one wing off the enemy ship, which dived out of control."

"I called to the bombardier, 'What's the matter? I didn't hear you shooting at that fellow.'"

"He replied, 'Doggone it, colonel, I was so excited at getting a chance at those monkeys that I couldn't get this gun into the right slot.'"

"On landing we found the bombardier's hands had been skinned and covered with blood as he had poked his gun from one slot to another in attempting to get proper aim."

"Meanwhile two other Japanese seaplanes attacked us from the rear. One of them did an extremely fine bit of acrobatics to get a couple of bursts at us, but fortunately missed."

"Those Japanese certainly are hot fliers, and their seaplanes are excellent."

The American B-25 is "a hell of a lot of airplane," the pilots agreed. They said fellow-aiirmen who bombed Nichols Field in B-17's in broad daylight caught the Japanese by surprise. The enemy did not attempt to intercept as the Flying Fortresses soared over, apparently not noticing they were American planes until the bombs fell.

#### U. S. May Get Old Cuban Cannon

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAVANA, April 15—President Fulgencio Batista today was requested by the Via Aerea del Louvre Association to turn over to the United States Government for use in war industry all old cannon now in parks and military forts on the island. These cannon are relics of Spanish colonial days and will supply several thousand tons of scrap iron which the association believes will be freely given by the Cuban people. The association is engaged in a campaign throughout the island in favor of the United States.

### War News Summarized

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1942

United States bombers from Australia have raided the Japanese in the Philippines with astonishing success, Australian dispatches revealed yesterday, while Japan was apparently concentrating on a race against the rains due next month in Burma. The situation resulting from Pierre Laval's return to power in Vichy had not yet become clear. There were no major changes on the Russian front. The British air offensive in Western Europe continued.

Twelve out of thirteen United States Army bombers have returned safely to Australia after having ranged over the Philippine Islands for two days. Hangars and runways were destroyed at Nichols Field north of Manila. Three enemy transports were sunk at Cebu and two more were hit. Heavy damage was done to enemy planes and shipping at Davao. At Batangas on Luzon a military supply ship was sunk. The planes apparently used airfields in the Philippines during their stay and some evacuees were taken back to Australia. [1:8.]

It was learned in Washington that a directive outlining the exact area that General Douglas MacArthur was to command had been sent to him, settling, probably, the confusion that has recently arisen regarding the precise extent of his authority. [1:7.]

Prime Minister Curtin of Australia called upon his country for greater sacrifices. There was talk of a large-scale air and naval offensive in the near future. Another raid on Kupang, Timor, was reported. [3:2.]

The Japanese launched a new Burma drive on the upper Salween River and kept up their pressure on the Sittang and Irrawaddy fronts. The British held in the center, where a dangerous strategic situation had devel-

oped. On the British-held Irrawaddy front the Japanese were about twenty miles from the Central Burma oil fields. [1:3; map, P. 2.]

Soviet troops were reported to have broken through the first and second German defense lines before the important German position at Bryansk, southwest of Moscow, but the Russians said that no decisive battles were being fought at the present moment. [9:1.] Soviet spokesmen claimed that the Germans had already employed 200 divisions against Russian forces and that only eighty German divisions had not been in action on the Eastern Front during the Winter. [8:2.]

British light bombers harassed German military establishments in Northern France after London had reported a heavy raid Tuesday night on Germany's Ruhr industrial region. The Germans bombed a heavily populated district in Northeast England last night. [6:1.]

Washington announced that until the French internal crisis that is bringing M. Laval back to power had been clarified two supply ships scheduled to sail from this country to North Africa and a Red Cross supply ship scheduled to sail for unoccupied France would be held in port. [1:4.]

In Berne, Switzerland, the story was heard that the Germans had given the Pétain regime until 11 o'clock today to present the list of the new "Laval Cabinet" for approval and that Field Marshal von Rundstedt had been sent hurriedly from the Eastern Front to Paris. [5:1.]

The sinking by enemy submarines of two more United States vessels off our Atlantic coast last Thursday was disclosed. [10:3.]

#### Pope Sees U. S. Delegate

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, April 15—The Pope today received Harold Tittman, President Roosevelt's representative at the Vatican, in a private audience that lasted more than an hour.