

Ground
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
18 December 1944 (PH)

SECRET

PHILIPPINES
LEYTE

(period 1500Z 13 Dec to 1500Z 14 Dec)

10th Corps: 32nd Division attacking with 2 regiments abreast reached bridge 1,700 yards south TOLIBAW. Enemy opposition continued heavy. 1st Cavalry units captured strong point north slopes MOUNT CATABARAN.

24th Corps: 77th Division advanced 800 yards north. 7th Division Regiment met increasingly heavy opposition from estimated 1,500 enemy trapped ANAS area, reached point 600 yards west of 511th Parachute Infantry; remainder division secured coast.

MINDORO (Preliminary report)

511 Parachute Infantry and 19th Regimental Combat Team from 24th Division supported by Naval and Air Forces landed unopposed SAN JOSE area 2300Z 14 Dec, by midmorning reached line extending from 76/07 to 86/04 to CANINAWIT POINT. Command ashore assumed at 0145Z 15 Dec.

PHILIPPINES

General MacArthur announced in his Communique No. 985 of 18 December, the following, in part:

"MINDORO

Our ground forces have seized the commanding ground 6 miles beyond SAN JOSE and our hold on the southern part of the island is now secure. * * * * The construction of airdrome sites is proceeding."

"LEYTE

The 77th Division, in a wide enveloping movement to the west, has outflanked the YAMASHITA LINE north of ORMOC and has advanced 7 miles to the north. It is now within 2 miles of VALENCIA, the Headquarters of General SUZUKI, Commander of the 35th Japanese Army. In the north the 1st Cavalry Division advanced 2 miles south and cut the YAMASHITA LINE between MT. CATABARAN and VALENCIA. The 32nd Division, advancing along the corridor road, captured large quantities of enemy ordnance, including tanks, artillery pieces, mortars and machine guns. The enemy lost 2,012 abandoned dead during the above actions." * * *