

*History of United States Naval
Operations in World War II*

VOLUME XIII

**THE LIBERATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES**
*Luzon, Mindanao, the Visayas
1944 - 1945*



By Samuel Eliot Morison

HISTORY OF UNITED STATES NAVAL
OPERATIONS IN WORLD WAR II
VOLUME XIII

The
Liberation of the Philippines
Luzon, Mindanao, the Visayas
1944-1945

BY SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON



With Illustrations

An Atlantic Monthly Press Book

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY • BOSTON

1959

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOG CARD NO. 47-1571

FIRST EDITION

ATLANTIC-LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS
ARE PUBLISHED BY
LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS

*Published simultaneously in Canada
by Little, Brown & Company (Canada) Limited*

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HISTORY OF
United States Naval Operations
IN WORLD WAR II

★

VOLUME THIRTEEN

The Liberation of the Philippines

Luzon, Mindanao, the Visayas

1944-1945

HISTORY OF UNITED STATES NAVAL OPERATIONS IN WORLD WAR II

By Samuel Eliot Morison

- I *The Battle of the Atlantic*, September 1939 — May 1943
- II *Operations in North African Waters*, October 1942 — June 1943
- III *The Rising Sun in the Pacific*, 1931 — April 1942
- IV *Coral Sea, Midway and Submarine Actions*, May 1942 — August 1942
- V *The Struggle for Guadalcanal*, August 1942 — February 1943
- VI *Breaking the Bismarcks Barrier*, 22 July 1942 — 1 May 1944
- VII *Aleutians, Gilberts and Marshalls*, June 1942 — April 1944
- VIII *New Guinea and the Marianas*, March 1944 — August 1944
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- X *The Atlantic Battle Won*, May 1943 — May 1945
- XI *The Invasion of France and Germany*, 1944 — 1945
- XII *Leyte*, June 1944 — January 1945
- XIII *The Liberation of the Philippines: Luzon, Mindanao, the Visayas*, 1944 — 1945

In preparation:

- xiv *Liquidation of the Japanese Empire*
- xv *General Index and Supplement*



From the painting by Albert K. Murray 1945

Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid USN

To
The Memory of
THEODORE EDSON CHANDLER
1894-1945
Rear Admiral, United States Navy

I firmly believe that it is not wise and statesmanly for our leaders, in this their darkest hour, to teach our people to avoid sufferings and hardships at the sacrifice of fundamental principles of government and the democratic way of life. On the contrary, it is their bounden duty and responsibility to inspire our people to willingly undergo any kind of difficulties and sacrifices for the sake of noble principles that they nourish deep in their hearts. Instead of depressing their patriotic ardor, the people should be inspired to be brave and courageous under all kinds of hardships and difficulties in defense of what they consider righteous and just. We shall never win or deserve the esteem and respect of other nations if we lack principles and if we do not possess the courage and valor to defend those principles at any cost.

— TOMÁS CONFESOR, GOVERNOR OF ILOILO: *Reply to the demand of President Laurel that he surrender, January 1943.*

Preface

THE BATTLE FOR LEYTE GULF and the securing of the island of Leyte, as described in Volume XII, were the necessary preliminaries to operations described in this volume for the liberation of the rest of the Philippine Archipelago.

We begin by taking Mindoro as a steppingstone to Luzon. Next come the major landings on the shores of Lingayen Gulf, where the Kamikaze Special Attack Corps first showed what it could really do. The covering operations by Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet, including its ordeal in the typhoon of 18 December 1944 and the South China Sea raid, are related, as well as all naval aspects of the drive on Manila. We then take up the liberation of Palawan, Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol and Mindanao. In Part IV we gather in the amphibious landings which wrested Borneo from the Japanese, the patrols of Seventh Fleet submarines in 1945, and the extraneous but picturesque operations of Rear Admiral Miles's United States Naval Group, China. Except for these last, and those of the fast carrier forces, all naval operations described in this volume were in the theater of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, and under the direct command of Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, Commander Seventh Fleet.

Research for this volume has been going on since 1945. The late Lieutenant Commander Henry Salomon USNR participated in the Lingayen landings as member of Vice Admiral Wilkinson's staff, and brought back both personal impressions and documents which were woven into my preliminary narrative of Parts I and II. Material on the Japanese side was obtained by Commander Salomon at Tokyo immediately after the surrender, by Mr. Roger Pineau and myself in 1950, and from Captain Toshikazu Ohmae at intervals ever since. With the assistance of Rear Admiral Bern Anderson USN (Ret.), working at the Naval War College at New-

port, and Dr. K. Jack Bauer, working at Washington, I resumed work on this volume before XII was completed. Mr. Donald R. Martin, now in his seventeenth year of service to me and to naval history, prepared the task organizations and did various pieces of research. Yeoman 2nd Class Edward Ledford and Chief Yeoman Henry W. Sutphin shared with him the typing. The charts were done by Yeoman 3rd Class Alexander D. Henderson and Specialist 1st Class Jane M. Donnelly, shortly after the war, and later, at the Naval War College, by James A. Clarkson, under the oversight of Mr. John Lawton.

Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller, Director of Naval History, and his exec., Captain F. Kent Loomis, and Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, Newport, have given this volume both countenance and support. Thanks are also due to Mr. John F. di Napoli, Director of Libraries, Naval War College and to Mr. Dean C. Allard, head of the Historical Records Branch of the Division of Naval History, Washington. My beloved wife, Priscilla Barton Morison, has patiently listened to many of the chapters and helped, by her criticism, to make them more readable.

Printed or mimeographed works used so frequently in the preparation of this volume that they are seldom cited in footnotes, are: —

Robert R. Smith *Triumph in the Philippines*, a volume in the U. S. Army in World War II series, of which the Army kindly gave me a mimeographed copy in advance of publication.

A number of books and pamphlets issued by General MacArthur's headquarters at Tokyo; indispensable because they were drawn from Japanese sources by a corps of Japanese experts. Also produced by the same headquarters, a series of some 180 *Japanese Monographs* on all phases of the Pacific War, of which a dozen or more were useful for this volume.

Based on these and other sources, the General's *Historical Re-*

port Vol. II (1951), representing the Japanese side, and *The Imperial Japanese Navy in World War II* (1952), a reference book and check list. JANAC (Joint Army-Navy Assessment Committee) *Japanese Naval and Merchant Ship Losses During World War II* (1947), another good reference work, is not wholly superseded by the book just mentioned. Differences in my attributions of sinkings from these two sources result from recent rechecking by Dr. Bauer, particularly with the Navy's Submarine Operations Research Group report, "Submarine Attacks According to Command and Month of Attack" (1945), and a 1946 list of antisubmarine attacks prepared by the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

United States Strategic Bombing Survey, Pacific, Naval Analysis Division, *Interrogations of Japanese Officials*, 2 vols (1946). A highly important source; and there are other mimeographed USSBS interrogations not included in this printed work.

Sixth Army Report, printed in Japan shortly after the surrender, in four volumes: I Operational, II Maps, III General and Special, IV Engineers.

Engineers of the Southwest Pacific 1941-45, Vol. I, *Engineers in Theatre Operations* (1947), a valuable publication by Office of Chief Engineers, GHQ, U. S. Army Forces, Pacific; supplemented by Colonel Robert Amory *Surf and Sand: The Saga of the 533rd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment* (1947), a useful regimental history.

Wesley F. Craven & James L. Cate *The Pacific: Matterhorn to Nagasaki* (1953), Vol. V, in *Army Air Forces in World War II* series, is supplemented, for Marine Corps aviation, by Major Charles W. Boggs *Marine Aviation in the Philippines* (1951) and Robert Sherrod *History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II* (1952).

Two important narratives by commanding generals: General Walter Krueger, *From Down Under to Nippon* (1953), and General Robert L. Eichelberger *Our Jungle Road to Tokyo* (1950).

It should also be understood that the war diaries and action reports of ships, divisions, squadrons, task forces and fleets have been used constantly, and are the principal body of sources for this, as of other volumes. Wherever motor torpedo boats are mentioned I have largely depended on Commander Robert J. Bulkley USNR "PT: A History of Motor Torpedo Boats in the United States Navy" (1946), a manuscript prepared in the Division of Naval History.

The dates used for the operations described in this volume are East Longitude, and the times are Zone Item (Greenwich minus 9 hours).

Rear Admiral Theodore E. Chandler, to whose memory this volume is dedicated, was born at Annapolis in 1894, the son of Rear Admiral Lloyd H. Chandler USN. His grandfather, William Eaton Chandler, was Secretary of the Navy under President Arthur and subsequently United States Senator from New Hampshire. "Ted" Chandler, as his friends called him, graduated from the Naval Academy well up in the Class of 1915, which included such distinguished officers as the future Rear Admirals Lynde D. McCormick, Arthur D. Struble, Richard W. Bates, Forrest B. Royal, John L. McCrea and Allan E. Smith, and Major General Ralph J. Mitchell USMC. Theodore Chandler specialized in gunnery, served in World War I and subsequently as gunnery officer on various staffs, and as C.O. of destroyers *Pope* and *Buchanan*. At the outbreak of World War II, as C.O. of light cruiser *Omaha*, he was instrumental in capturing a German blockade runner.¹ Promoted Rear Admiral 1942, he commanded Allied naval forces in the Aruba-Curaçao sector of the Caribbean for a year. In Operation DRAGOON, the invasion of Southern France, he had charge of the "Sitka-Romeo Force," a collection of tough but undisciplined French, American and Canadian commandos, who saw to it that his good humor and capacity to command were well

¹ For references in this History to his service in World War II see Volume I p. 84; also X 204, XI 242, 251, and XII 224-226.

tested. In the Battle of Surigao Strait he commanded Batdiv 2 (*Tennessee*, flag) and shortly after was given command of Crudiv 4. In the kamikaze attack of 6 January 1945, in Lingayen Gulf, on his flagship (*Louisville*), he was overwhelmed by the flaming gasoline, tried heroically to carry on, but collapsed, and died next day.

Admiral Chandler was a quiet and efficient officer, thoroughly competent for his successive commands, knowing what should be done and how to do it, beloved both by his seniors and his juniors.

SAMUEL E. MORISON

U. S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

NEWPORT, R. I.

1 June 1959

Abbreviations

Officers' ranks and bluejackets' ratings are those contemporaneous with the event. Officers and men named will be presumed to be of the United States Navy unless it is otherwise stated; officers of the Naval Reserve are designated USNR. Other service abbreviations are USA, United States Army; USCG, United States Coast Guard; USCGR, Reserve of same; USMC, United States Marine Corps; USMCR, Reserve of same; RAN, Royal Australian Navy; RN, Royal Navy; RNN, Royal Netherlands Navy; IJN, Imperial Japanese Navy.

See Preface for abbreviations of books in footnotes.

- A.A.F. — United States Army Air Forces
- Abda — American-British-Dutch-Australian Command
- AGC — Amphibious Group Command flagship; AGP — Motor Torpedo Boat tender
- AP — Transport; APA — Attack transport; APD — destroyer transport
- A/S — Antisubmarine
- ATIS — Allied Translator and Interpreter Section of General Headquarters
- avgas — Aviation gasoline
- Batdiv — Battleship division
- BB — Battleship
- BLT — Battalion Landing Team
- Bu — Bureau; Buord — Bureau of Ordnance; Bupers — Bureau of Naval Personnel; Buships — Bureau of Ships
- CA — Heavy cruiser
- CAG — Commander Air Group
- C.A.P. — Combat Air Patrol
- Cardiv — Carrier division
- C.I.C. — Combat Information Center
- Cincpac — Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet (Admiral Nimitz)
- CL — Light Cruiser
- C.O. — Commanding Officer
- C.N.O. — Chief of Naval Operations
- Com — before cardiv, desdiv, etc., means Commander Carrier Division, Commander Destroyer Division, etc.

Cominch — Commander in Chief, United States Fleet (Admiral King)
CTF — Commander Task Force; CTG — Commander Task Group
CV — Aircraft Carrier; CVE — Escort Carrier; CVL — Light Carrier
DD — Destroyer; DE — Destroyer Escort
ESB — Engineer Special Brigades
H.M.A.S. — His Majesty's Australian Ship; H.M.S. — His Majesty's Ship
H.Q. — Headquarters
IFF — Identification, Friend or Foe
J.C.S. — Joint Chiefs of Staff
LC — Landing craft; LCI — Landing craft, infantry; LCM — Landing craft, mechanized; LCS — Landing craft, support; LCT — Landing craft, tank; LCVP — Landing craft, vehicles and personnel; LSD — Landing ship, dock; LSI — Landing ship, infantry; LSM — Landing ship, medium; LST — Landing ship, tank; LSV — Landing ship, vehicle; LVT — Landing vehicle tracked (or Amphtrac). (A), (G), (L), (M) and (R) added to above types mean armored, gunboat, large, mortar and rocket.
N.A.S. — Naval Air Station; N.O.B. — Naval Operating Base
Op — Operation; Opnav — Chief of Naval Operations; op plan — Operation Plan
O.N.I. — Office of Naval Intelligence
O.T.C. — Officer in Tactical Command
PC — Patrol craft; PCE — Patrol craft, escort
R.A.F. — Royal Air Force
RCT — Regimental Combat Team
S.A.P. — Semi-armor-piercing
SC — Submarine chaser
s.f.c.p. — Shore fire control party
S.O.P.A. — Senior Officer Present Afloat
SS — Submarine
TBS — Talk Between Ships (voice radio)
TF — Task Force; TG — Task Group; TU — Task Unit
UDT — Underwater Demolition Team
U.S.C.G.C. — United States Coast Guard Cutter
U.S.S. — United States Ship
USSBS — United States Strategic Bombing Survey
VB; VC; VF; VT — Bomber; Composite; Fighter; Torpedo plane
WDC — Washington Document Center
YMS — Motor minesweeper; YP — Patrol vessel

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATIONS

(Numerals in parentheses indicates number of engines)

United States

- A-20 — Boston, Army (2) light bomber
 B-17 — Flying Fortress, Army (4) heavy bomber; B-24 — Liberator, Army (4) heavy bomber; B-25 — Mitchell, Army (2) medium bomber; B-26 — Marauder, Army (2) medium bomber; B-29 — Superfortress, Army (4) heavy bomber
 C-47 — Skytrain, Army (2) transport; C-54 — Skymaster, Army (4) transport
 “Dumbo” — PBV equipped for rescue work
 F4F — Wildcat; F6F — Hellcat; F4U — Corsair; Navy (1) fighters
 OS2U — Kingfisher, Navy (1) scout-observation float plane
 P-38 — Lightning, Army (2); P-39 — Airacobra, Army (1); P-40 — Warhawk, Army (1); P-47 — Thunderbolt, Army (1); P-51 — Mustang, Army (1); P-61 — Black Widow, Army (2) fighters
 PBM-3 — Mariner, Navy (2) patrol bomber (flying boat)
 PBV — Catalina, Navy (2) patrol bomber; PBV-5A, amphibian Catalina; PB4Y-1 — Navy Liberator bomber (4); PB4Y-2 — Navy Privateer bomber (4). *See also* “Dumbo”
 PV-1 — Ventura, Navy (2) medium bomber
 SB2C and SBW — Helldivers; SBD — Dauntless; Navy (1) dive-bombers
 SOC — Seagull, Navy (1) scout-observation float plane
 TBF, TBM — Avenger, Navy (1) torpedo-bombers

Japanese

- Betty — Mitsubishi Zero-1, Navy (2) high-level or torpedo-bomber
 Hamp — Mitsubishi Zero-2, Navy (1) fighter
 Jake — Aichi or Watanabe, Navy (1) reconnaissance bomber (float plane)
 Judy — Aichi, Navy (1) dive-bomber
 Nick — Kawasaki or Nakajima Zero-2, Army (2) fighter
 Oscar — Nakajima, Army (1) fighter
 Rufe — Mitsubishi, Navy (1) fighter (float plane)
 Tojo — Nakajima Zero-2, Army (1) fighter
 Tony — Zero-3, Army or Navy (1) fighter
 Val — Aichi 99, Navy (1) dive-bomber
 Zeke — Mitsubishi Zero-3, Navy (1) fighter

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