

Lying to the Troops: American Leaders and the Defense of Bataan

MATTHEW S. KLIMOW

For the American people, the fall of the Philippines in 1942 evoked neither the shock of Pearl Harbor nor the defiance born of the Alamo's fight to the last man. Bataan and Corregidor, while not forgotten, were overtaken by the swift currents of other World War II battles, as Americans found new losses to lament and growing victories to celebrate. Survivors of the Philippine campaign quietly languished in squalid prisoner of war camps or, in the case of the few who avoided capture, struck at the Japanese in unpublicized guerrilla raids.

Many of these soldiers felt betrayed by both their government and commander. Their grievance went beyond President Roosevelt's order to General MacArthur to depart the Philippines in March 1942. It was rooted in widely disseminated promises Douglas MacArthur made to his soldiers beginning in the first weeks of the war. In message after message, the charismatic commander bolstered the hopes of his Filipino-American force by conjuring images of a vast armada steaming to relieve the besieged archipelago. Without revealing details, MacArthur told his warriors: "Help is on the way from the United States. Thousands of troops and hundreds of planes are being dispatched. The exact time of arrival is unknown as they will have to fight their way through."¹

Buoyed by this hope, the half-starved soldiers fought gallantly and continually frustrated the timetable established by the Japanese army. However, the hopes of these brave Americans and Filipinos were misplaced. Even before his harrowing escape from the Philippines, General MacArthur knew that relief of the Philippines was all but impossible. Yet, the myth of a large force bringing desperately needed reinforcements and supplies was perpetuated. As the Bataan perimeter shrank, soldiers kept straining to hear or

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 1990		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1990 to 00-00-1990	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Lying to the Troops: American Leaders and the Defense of Bataan				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army War College,ATTN: Parameters,122 Forbes Avenue,Carlisle,PA,17013-5238				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 13	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

see the planes and ships promised by their commander. Almost three years would pass before the promise was fulfilled.

Although the soldiers stranded on the Philippines cursed MacArthur for deceiving them, it is clear that the Philippine commander was initially the victim of lies from his superiors in Washington. The venerable Secretary of War Henry Stimson, revered Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, and the Commander-in-Chief Franklin Roosevelt are sullied by half-truths and false denials they conveyed to their field commander in the Pacific. Apologists for these World War II heroes argue that false promises made during those dark days of early 1942 were justified. In their view, official words of hope were essential to foster a fighting spirit, not only among the starving and outnumbered soldiers scattered among the Philippine Islands, but on the American home front as well.

There is no denying that assurances of relief raised morale of the beleaguered Philippine garrison. But actions taken by American leaders to create false hope were wrong on two counts. First, the decision not to level with the troops proved, in hindsight, to be a prudential error. The practical outcome of the Philippine campaign might have been favorably altered had local commanders been given a truthful assessment of the relief situation. Second and more important, the lies by Roosevelt, Stimson, Marshall, and MacArthur were unethical. Their infidelity was an unconscionable breach of faith that only deepened the final disillusionment of gallant fighters essentially abandoned by the United States.²

Formulation of a Lie

From the disastrous beginning of the Philippine campaign on 8 December 1941, key leaders sensed the hopelessness of the situation. On that day, Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War and former governor general of the Philippine Islands (1928-1929), noted in his diary: "While MacArthur seems to be putting up a strong defense, he is losing planes very fast and, with the sea cut off by the loss of the [Pacific] fleet, we should be unable to reinforce him probably in time to save the islands. However, we have started everything going that we could."³

Major Matthew S. Klimow is the S3 of the 3d Battalion, 41st Infantry at Fort Hood, Texas. He graduated from the US Military Academy in 1974 and from the US Army Command and General Staff College in 1989, where he received a Master of Military Arts and Science degree. He also holds an M.A. in public administration from Webster University, St. Louis. He has served in various infantry assignments in Germany and the United States, including duty on brigade, division, and Department of the Army level staffs. His most recent previous article, "The Ethical Dilemma of Surrender," appeared in the October 1990 issue of *Military Review*.

Stimson's thoughts, recorded on the second day of America's entry into World War II, captured the attitude that would prevail in official Washington from the start of the war until the archipelago fell almost five months later. No one believed relief of the Philippines was possible but most felt there was a moral obligation to try.

There were some, however, who felt attempts to relieve MacArthur were not only futile, but a waste of limited resources. This was certainly the Navy's view. Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander of the United States Asiatic Fleet, told General MacArthur that resupply of the Philippines was impossible because of the Japanese blockade and lack of sufficient Allied naval forces. The Joint Board in Washington concurred with Hart and ordered the cancellation of a convoy destined for MacArthur's United States Forces Far East (USAFFE).⁴

Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall felt, as Stimson, that despite limited resources, the men and women fighting in the Philippines could not be abandoned without some effort being undertaken to relieve them. Marshall appealed directly to President Franklin Roosevelt for support. The Commander-in-Chief responded by overruling the Joint Board's decision that would have stopped the relief convoy. Roosevelt also told Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal that the President was "bound to help the Philippines, and the Navy had to do its share in the relief effort."⁵ Two weeks later in a cheerful New Year's message, President Roosevelt exuded optimism regarding relief of the besieged garrison that many in the islands interpreted as a promise of immediate aid.⁶

General Marshall also sought to reassure MacArthur, sending the USAFFE commander encouraging cables detailing weapons and equipment waiting on docks or already en route to the Islands. However, on 3 January 1942, Marshall's War Plans Division issued a frank and pessimistic assessment of the relief situation. The staff officer who developed the report was Brigadier General Dwight D. Eisenhower, an old Philippine hand who knew MacArthur and the archipelago's defense plan. Eisenhower told the chief of staff that "it will be a long time before major reinforcements can go to the Philippines, longer than the garrison can hold out." He concluded that a realistic attempt to relieve the Philippine defenders would require so vast a force that it was "entirely unjustifiable" in light of the priority given to the European Theater.⁷

In his diary, Secretary Stimson noted receipt of the "very gloomy study" from the War Plans Division. In Stimson's words, the report encouraged the senior leadership to recognize that "it would be impossible for us to relieve MacArthur and we might as well make up our minds about it." However, either Stimson couldn't make up his mind or he was unwilling to confront MacArthur and others with the growing evidence that supported



USAMHI

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson confers with General George C. Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff, in the War Department on 16 January 1942.

Eisenhower's conclusion. The Secretary went on to write, "It is a bad kind of paper to be lying around the War Department at this time. Everybody knows the chances are against our getting relief to him [MacArthur] *but there is no use in saying so before hand*"⁸ (emphasis added).

Reflecting Stimson's attitude, Marshall apparently never shared Eisenhower's report with MacArthur nor made its contents public. D. Clayton James, the respected biographer of Douglas MacArthur, likened Roosevelt's and Marshall's hopeful words to the false encouragement given by some physicians to dying patients. The President's and Chief of Staff's intent, as surmised by James, was to brace the Philippine defenders to fight longer than they might have if they were told the truth. According to James, promises made by Roosevelt and Marshall deceived MacArthur and were "an insult to the garrison's bravery and determination."⁹

General MacArthur may have initially been duped into believing the cheery news from his superiors. But it seems highly unlikely that the savvy MacArthur could have long been deluded as the weeks dragged on and convoys

destined for the Philippines were diverted to Australia or Hawaii. Historian Louis Morton, whose book *The Fall of the Philippines* is recognized as the definitive work on the topic, notes that USAFFE headquarters was indeed aware that the promised help was unlikely to reach Philippine shores in time. Those who knew the full story told no one. When one American colonel asked a friend on the USAFFE staff when relief might arrive, the staff officer's eyes "went poker-blank and his teeth bit his lips into a grim thin line." The troops were encouraged to assume help was weeks, perhaps only days away.¹⁰

MacArthur hammered General Marshall with repeated early messages insisting that the blockade could be broken and demanding that the Navy increase its efforts. Marshall, however, acknowledged on 17 January 1942 that the only reason the Navy should continue to challenge the Japanese blockade was for "the moral effect occasional small shipments might have on the beleaguered forces."¹¹

MacArthur eventually saw the grim reality of no meaningful relief coming from the United States. By February, his cables to Washington began to raise issues concerning the fate of Philippine President Quezon once the Islands were lost to the Japanese. However, General MacArthur did nothing to alter the original picture he painted for his troops. Thousands of malnourished soldiers, riddled with intestinal disease, clung to the belief that if they could hold out for a short time, they would be saved.¹²

There is no evidence that MacArthur and General Jonathan Wainwright had a frank discussion of the relief situation as the latter took charge of the Filipino-American force. The change of command was a hurried affair, with MacArthur promising Wainwright to "come back as soon as I can with as much as I can." Wainwright's reply, which he came to regret, was, "I'll be here on Bataan if I'm alive."¹³

Impact on the Soldiers

As word of Douglas MacArthur's escape to Australia spread among American and Filipino troops, morale plummeted. For some, it was a sign that they had been abandoned to face death or capture by the brutal Japanese. While many experienced this disillusionment, others believed the charismatic MacArthur would return from Australia posthaste leading the relief force. Indeed, once in Australia, MacArthur's first message was again one of hope. This time he said that the relief of the Philippines was his primary mission. In a pledge that was continuously broadcast and printed on everything from letterheads to chewing gum wrappers, the general simply stated, "I made it through and I shall return."¹⁴

There is ample evidence that soldiers placed great stock in MacArthur's renewed pledge from Australia. When "Skinny" Wainwright made the fateful decision to surrender the entire Philippine command in May 1942,

hundreds of Americans refused to obey the order. One often-cited reason for this disobedience was the belief that General MacArthur would be back to retake the Islands by the end of 1942. Based on that assumption, many GIs disregarded surrender orders and took their chances in the jungles, waiting for MacArthur's supposed imminent return.¹⁵

Even Major General William F. Sharp, who refused to surrender his Visayan-Mindanao Force for a number of days after Wainwright's capitulation, appeared to believe MacArthur might return at any time. Sharp's staff chaplain wrote after the war that the general cabled MacArthur for guidance regarding Wainwright's order to surrender. MacArthur's reply appears to have been a surprise to Sharp, as revealed in this published account:

"We sent out your message [to General MacArthur], Sir, and we have just decoded a message from down south [Australia]."

All eyes were on General Sharp as he read the message. There was no expression on his face. "Gentlemen, this is MacArthur's final message: 'Expect no immediate aid!'"

. . . This was a hard blow, as rumors flew thick and fast that our fleet was on its way to save the Philippines. None of us had doubted this and we had expected to hear soon the skies thunderous with many planes.¹⁶

Not surprisingly, disillusioned soldiers directed their resentment and animus toward MacArthur. The depth of this enmity was apparent in Brigadier General William Brougher's after-action report written in a Japanese POW camp. Brougher, a division commander on Bataan, concluded his report in extraordinarily condemnatory language:

Who took responsibility for saying that some other possibility [relief of the Philippines] was in prospect? And who ever did, was he [MacArthur] not an arch-deceiver, traitor, and criminal rather than a great soldier? . . . A foul trick of deception has been played on a large group of Americans by a Commander-in-Chief and small staff who are now eating steak and eggs in Australia. God damn them!¹⁷

Although 47 years have passed since the fall of the Philippines, some survivors of that ordeal express undiminished bitterness at being deceived by the promise of imminent relief from the United States. One veteran recently wrote,

We all knew when General MacArthur . . . was ordered by President Roosevelt to desert us, he left General Skinny Wainwright holding the bag. We knew we would be killed or captured. As a kid in school, we were taught the captain was the last man to leave the ship. He said, "I shall return." Three years later, by the time he returned, two thousand of his men . . . had died.¹⁸

Nor is the acrimony expressed by the veterans reserved for General MacArthur. As one former soldier wrote, "After fighting in the jungle for five months without any support whatsoever except lip service from our US government, I felt our government had deserted me."¹⁹

Regardless of how the blame is spread for this prevarication, the fact is that Roosevelt, Stimson, Marshall, and MacArthur all refused to level with the troops. Failing to inform the soldiers that substantial relief of the Philippines was several months or even years away may be described as an exaggeration or half-truth rather than a lie. Whatever label given to this false promise, it was a breach of ethical standards. Soldiers in the Philippines fought gallantly and held out longer than expected, but at the cost of distrust, bitterness, and resentment toward their leaders and government.

Professional Ethics, Military Necessity, and Exceptions to the Rule

The implicit question posed by this episode—when is lying to the troops justified?—is likely to elicit an immediate and resounding "Never!" from most military officers. As retired Major General Clay Buckingham wrote in an essay on ethics, the oath of a professional officer should be "to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."²⁰ Half-truths or deceptions do not fall within the military's concept of honor and integrity. Not surprisingly, a plethora of books and articles on military ethics echo this view, using vignettes or case studies to illustrate the critical nature of honesty in the military.

While the US Army has never published a formal code of ethics, Field Manual 100-1, *The Army*, does devote a chapter to the professional Army ethic and individual values. Among the key values listed is candor, described as "honesty and fidelity to the truth. . . . Soldiers must at all times demand honesty and candor from themselves and from their fellow soldiers."²¹

The values espoused in FM 100-1 are a distillation of ethical standards and moral beliefs that have been operative in the US Army from its conception. Lying and deception as devices to motivate soldiers to accomplish the mission were ethically wrong in 1942 just as they are today. True, anyone can concoct a hypothetical situation where a lie or half-truth may be used to save an innocent life. But a moral dilemma that offers lying as the *only* means to preserve life is extremely rare. Building morale on a deception or motivating soldiers with a lie remains unethical.

Did our towering leaders of World War II—Roosevelt, Stimson, Marshall, MacArthur—set a course knowing their acts were unethical or, as more likely, did they hold to some other ethical precept they felt to be more compelling than honesty and candor? In questions of morality and ethics, even the most sacred values are challenged when they collide with other bedrock principles. The promise of help to the Philippines is a case in point. America's

Did our towering leaders of World War II set a course knowing their acts were unethical?

war planners in Washington and MacArthur in the Pacific may have viewed their deception to the troops as a "military necessity." Simply put, military necessity is action that is necessary in the attainment of the just and moral end for which war is fought.²²

Even military necessity, however, does not excuse all steps taken in the name of a "just war." There must be some sense of proportion. Philosopher Michael Walzer of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies points out that we must weigh the damage or injury done to individuals and mankind against the contribution a particular action makes to the end of victory.²³

To appreciate this argument it is important to recall the military and political situation in the Philippines. In the first months of America's entry into World War II, victory over Japan was far from certain. For Marshall and Stimson, and particularly for the nation's political leader, Franklin Roosevelt, the battle for the Philippines was a symbol of America's resolve to stay in the fight despite repeated setbacks in the Pacific. It was feared that early capitulation or mass desertions in the Philippines would have great moral and political significance for the nation. This can be inferred from the revealing and startling passage Secretary Stimson wrote in his diary on the eve of Bataan's surrender:

[It has been suggested] that we should not order a fight to the bitter end [in the Philippines] because that would mean the Japanese would massacre everyone there. McCloy, Eisenhower, and I in thinking it over agreed that . . . even if such a bitter end had to be, it would be probably better for the cause of the country in the end than would surrender.²⁴

Obviously, the War Department was willing to go to great lengths to keep Wainwright and his troops in the fight. There was apparently the presumption that final victory over Japan would be hastened and morale at home bolstered by frustrating the enemy's timetable in the Philippines. However, the United States lacked sufficient war materiel to ship to the islands and had no means to pierce the blockade. Roosevelt, Stimson, and Marshall therefore chose to send the brave defenders words of hope regarding relief efforts in order to encourage them to hold on as long as possible.

Although those in Washington knew that their promises lacked veracity, this may not have been an inconsequential gesture. Soldiers, faced with the possibility of capture and starvation, cannot endure long as an isolated force. MacArthur, probably more so than those in Washington, understood that the source of a soldier's strength is not altogether in himself, but in being part of a mighty, glorious, and indestructible army.²⁵ As the American-Philippine army began to crumble, MacArthur not only passed on promises of help issued from Washington, he embellished the story with talk of thousands of men, planes, and equipment coming to the rescue. As a result, the men and women of Bataan and Corregidor became part of a mighty army, if only in their minds.

In Eric Hoffer's seminal book on mass movements, *The True Believer*, he writes that "the impulse to fight springs less from self-interest than from intangibles such as tradition, honor, and, above all, hope. Where there is no hope, people either run, or allow themselves to be killed without a fight."²⁶ At least some of the Philippine veterans agree with this premise. In a recent interview, one of the "Battling Bastards of Bataan" rhetorically asked, "What else could MacArthur do? You can't create doubts in war. You must be very positive and can't afford any negativity . . . [even if you] need to stretch the facts."²⁷

An Ethical Alternative

Retired Admiral James Stockdale writes that truly great leaders don't simply analyze what they think their people want and then give them part of it, hoping they'll receive accommodation in return. Great leaders raise their soldiers above their "everyday" selves to accomplish, at great sacrifice, the just goals asked of them by their nation.²⁸ MacArthur, as well as Roosevelt and Marshall, knew the soldiers wanted to hear that help was on the way, so that is what they told the troops. In return, the nation received the continued sacrifice of those battered and surrounded soldiers despite impossible odds. In short, the leaders took the easy way out, raising morale and building expectations on a falsehood.

As the field commander, the man who had to serve as buffer between Washington and his soldiers, MacArthur must bear much of the responsibility for feeding false hopes to the troops. It is ironic that of all World War II leaders, Douglas MacArthur would resort to perpetuating a falsehood. His stature and reputation at the start of World War II were unparalleled in the American military. US soldiers trusted the former Chief of Staff of the Army and Filipino troops unabashedly idolized him. MacArthur also possessed charisma and a worthy goal with which to motivate his soldiers. Yet, he passed up the high road, complete candor, which alone enables a leader to ask for and receive the greatest sacrifice from one's soldiers. Instead, MacArthur took the low road, sacrificing his integrity by misleading his troops.

In the final analysis, using military necessity to cloak the lies and half-truths that were fed to American soldiers does not wash ethically. Contemporary philosopher and military commentator Donald Zoll notes that the suspension of rudimentary morality is hardly ever justifiable by soldiers even "in extremis," when society itself is threatened. Zoll argues that the "choice of saving the society by ostensibly immoral means is rarely a dilemma for the field commander" (as MacArthur was in the Philippines).²⁹

As for those who were charged with protecting American society—Roosevelt, Stimson, and Marshall—it might appear that their actions had an ethical basis. On the surface, they simply withheld information from MacArthur and only then to serve the higher interest of defending the nation. However, on closer examination it becomes clear that the leaders in Washington intended to deceive MacArthur, not just to deny him the facts. Further, it is hard to argue that those in Washington were forced into the ethical dilemma of choosing between saving the nation or telling a lie. No one believed that the loss of the Philippines would threaten America's overall war effort in the long run. These top leaders agreed that Europe had first priority, not the Pacific. Even in the Pacific Theater, the key to victory over Japan was not linked to the Philippines but to reestablishing America's naval power.

The claim of military necessity did not justify the lack of candor official Washington displayed in dealing with MacArthur. It was less a case of necessity and more a matter of expediency. Simply put, those in Washington found it easier to imply to MacArthur that sufficient help was forthcoming rather than to look him in the eye and tell him the unfortunate truth. Nor would it have been politically easy to tell the American people in the weeks following Pearl Harbor that the only combat troops engaged in fighting the hated Japanese were being all but abandoned.

Beyond Ethics: Would the Truth Have Made a Difference?

History shows that through tremendous effort, Wainwright's gallant soldiers forestalled the Japanese onslaught weeks longer than expected. The question remaining is what would have happened if the soldiers trapped on the Philippine Islands had been told the truth regarding the impossibility of relief. Would they still have achieved the same level of success in delaying the Japanese in the spring of 1942?

The Philippine campaign of 1941-1942 accomplished more for the United States war effort than anyone had hoped for. Militarily, American and Filipino troops frustrated Japanese war plans, holding out months longer than predicted. Politically, Roosevelt got a hero or heroes in the form of Jonathan Wainwright and his captured soldiers, and without the feared massacre of the Corregidor garrison. Their valiant defense, conducted without reinforcements from the United States, inspired rather than demoralized the nation.

One can speculate endlessly on what might have happened had the soldiers been told from the outset that they would have to fight without expectation of relief. Perhaps little would have changed. Even before America was catapulted into the war by the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese army had an established record of atrocities and disregard for human life. This was verified in the first weeks of the Philippine campaign when soldiers found evidence of prisoners being tortured and executed by their Japanese captors. In short, Americans and Filipinos had little incentive to surrender. With departure of the bulk of the US Asiatic Fleet in December 1941, there was no means of mass evacuation or escape from the various islands. The soldiers had every reason to fight on toward an uncertain end.

However, had the truth been served, the combined American-Filipino force might have succeeded in frustrating Japanese plans to a far greater degree. MacArthur and Wainwright could have done more to plan for and establish a guerrilla organization if they had realized earlier in the campaign that adequate resupply and assistance would not be forthcoming. Final conquest of the archipelago might have been delayed by several more months by abandoning the stubborn defense of Bataan and infiltrating guerrilla teams north into the Luzon hills. One Japanese general noted that "a well-planned guerrilla defense should have prolonged the warfare after the conquest [of the Philippines] and should have made [MacArthur's] comeback much easier."³⁰

Perhaps this was more than could have been expected from the malnourished soldiers who were virtually all ravaged by disease. But by hanging onto the false hope of relief convoys steaming to the rescue, there was no thought given to abandoning the Bataan Peninsula with its key city of Manila and deep harbor at Subic Bay. Only a handful of soldiers ever made it to northern Luzon, where cool mountain hideaways offered an excellent base from which to launch guerrilla operations and a reprieve from Bataan's malaria-ridden jungles.

On a more basic level was the effect MacArthur's promises had on individual soldiers. Had the troops on Bataan been told the truth and dealt with in a forthright manner, they might have been better prepared psychologically for the fate that surely awaited them. Perhaps some who perished during brutal

In the final analysis, using "military necessity" to cloak the lies and half-truths that were fed to American soldiers does not wash.

Japanese captivity would have survived. We will never know, but the possibility alone makes this a point worthy of consideration by today's leaders.

Conclusion: A Lost Opportunity and An Inexcusable Breach of Integrity

Exactly how much each of the key players knew about the Philippine relief effort as the first weeks and months of the war unfolded is unclear. However, there is no doubt that early in the war, Roosevelt, Stimson, and Marshall were not candid with MacArthur about the impossibility of supplying adequate relief for the Philippines. MacArthur's promise of massive convoys steaming toward the Philippines may have initially been a reflection of his faith in Washington to deliver on promises of immediate aid. However, at some point, MacArthur clearly came to know his repeated pledge of relief was years away from fulfillment. Despite this knowledge, he continued to talk of massive relief and did nothing to quash the rampant rumors of resupply and support which he had fostered.

One can hypothesize about how pure the motives were for each actor. Few question that those in Washington felt hopeless and distressed at being unable to give the Philippines the assistance that was so desperately needed. MacArthur's cables to Washington made clear his own frustration at being denied priority over war plans for Europe when his men were fighting for their very lives. However, in the trenches of Bataan and the bunkers on Corregidor, the result was the same. Soldiers built their hopes on a phantom army that failed to materialize before the Japanese overwhelmed them.

Ethically, the claim of military necessity is a transparent attempt to justify unfaithfulness to the basic moral obligation of honesty and candor. One must sadly conclude that four distinguished figures of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, General George Marshall, and General Douglas MacArthur, stained their honor by perpetuating a lie. It should come as no surprise that the military's civilian masters in Washington were willing to expend soldiers' lives without concern for the truth. Throughout our country's brief history, politicians have shown a limited regard for candor and honesty in both peace and war. But it is hoped that the commander in the field will always be truthful. His honor as a soldier must be absolute.

Taking the high road and being honest with the troops would probably not have changed the final outcome in the Philippines. The success of the Japanese invasion was inevitable. Honesty and candor might have made a difference after the fall of the Philippines as soldiers stole away into the jungle or marched toward wretched prisoner of war camps. Had these soldiers not been deceived, they would have at least been sustained by faith in their leaders, trust in their country, and belief in the military ethic. As it was, these moral anchors were undermined when it became clear that the promises their

leaders made regarding relief of the Philippines were lies. Perhaps this loss of the moral underpinning of an army was as regrettable as the military loss of the Philippine Islands themselves.

NOTES

1. Louis Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines: The United States Army in World War II* (Washington: GPO, 1953), p. 387.
2. D. Clayton James, *The Years of MacArthur: Vol. II* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975), p. 52.
3. Henry L. Stimson Diaries, Yale University, New Haven, Conn., 8 December 1941, hereinafter cited as Stimson.
4. Morton, pp. 91-92.
5. Stimson, 14 December 1941.
6. Forrest C. Pogue, *George C. Marshall: Ordeal and Hope 1939-1942* (New York: Viking Press, 1965), p. 51.
7. James, p. 51.
8. Stimson, 5 January 1942.
9. James, p. 51.
10. Morton, p. 387.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 399.
12. *Ibid.*, pp. 387-89; Radiogram MacArthur to Marshall, Fort Mills, P.I., 8 February 1942, Record Group 319, National Archives, Washington, DC.
13. Duane Schultz, *Hero of Bataan: The Story of General Jonathan M. Wainwright* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1981), p. 200.
14. Morton, pp. 388-89.
15. The decision of many American soldiers to disobey the order to surrender is well documented in Morton's *The Fall of the Philippines* and in other published accounts. The assertion that this disobedience was, in many cases, founded on the mistaken belief that a relief force was only weeks away is based on a written survey of 100 American veterans of the Philippine campaign, conducted by the author in November 1988, along with personal interviews. See Klimow, "Surrender—A Soldier's Legal, Ethical, and Moral Obligations; With Philippine Case Study," MMAS thesis, US Army Command and General Staff College, 1989.
16. Edward Haggerty, *Guerrilla Padre in Mindanao* (New York: Longmans, Green, 1946), p. 20.
17. Brigadier General William E. Brougher, 11th Infantry Operational Report, as cited in James, p. 127.
18. Captain James W. Carrington, USMC Ret., written survey of the American Guerrillas of Mindanao veterans organization, by the author, 1988, unpublished raw data.
19. Erling H. Jonassen, written survey of the American Guerrillas of Mindanao, 1988, unpublished raw data.
20. Major General Clay T. Buckingham, USA Ret., "Ethics and the Senior Officer," in *The Parameters of Military Ethics*, ed. Lloyd J. Matthews and Dale E. Brown (Washington: Pergamon-Brassey's, 1989), p. 94.
21. US Department of the Army, *The Army Field Manual 100-1*, (Washington: GPO, August 1986), p. 23.
22. Kenneth Wenker, "Military Necessity and Morality," in *Military Ethics: Reflections on Principles—The Profession of Arms, Military Leadership, Ethical Practices, War and Morality, Educating the Citizen Soldier*, ed. Malham Wakin, Kenneth Wenker, and James Kempf (Washington: National Defense Univ. Press, 1987), p. 179.
23. Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations* (New York: Basic Books, 1977), p. 129.
24. Stimson, 8 April 1942.
25. Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements* (New York: Harper and Row, 1951), p. 62.
26. *Ibid.*, p. 74.
27. Interview with Brigadier General Donald Blackburn, USA Ret., December 1988, McLean, Va.
28. Admiral James B. Stockdale, USN Ret., "Machiavelli, Management, and Moral Leadership," in Wakin, Wenker, and Kempf, *Military Ethics*, pp. 43-44.
29. Donald Zoll, "The Moral Dimension of War and the Military Ethic," in Matthews and Brown, *The Parameters of Military Ethics*, p. 115.
30. John J. Beck, *MacArthur and Wainwright: Sacrifice of the Philippines* (Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1974), p. 239.