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12.20 P.M.  
17/4/42 M. S. ...

The first round in the Battle of the Philippines is over; all that is left for a film to show is the charred ruin of a once-happy and once-peaceful group of islands: though Corregidor holds out and though the memory of Bataan will never die, this is the truth to-day. Japan has taken further toll of the pleasant places of the Pacific.

For four months American and Filipino troops fought a desperate rearguard action; bombed from high level and low they endured more than we could have guessed it possible for men to endure; even in these years of a world that knows too well the full measure of human suffering. This was the battleground of the island of Luzon; these were one-time homes of an unwarlike race that took to war when it was forced upon them, and brought the aggressors up short. MacArthur's name is secure among the heroes of the centuries; the name of every single soldier who fought with him to the Bataan Peninsula is worthy of an equal place in the roll of fame. But against the overwhelming odds that Japan flung into the scale they could not keep the balance. ~~Manila fell, and finally Bataan too, was captured.~~ What next? ~~It was only the first round of the fight;~~ to find if America is girded up for battle, we can look at America's home front: a huge California factory where they're building Douglas Dive-Bombers; obviously America has decided that the dive-bomber is not obsolete --- they're building in gigantic numbers for a spearhead for land attack.