

Day by day the defenders grew more desperate. Of the 30,000 troops in Bataan, only 27,000 were listed as combat forces. Three fourths of these were suffering from malaria; all were threatened with starvation. Wainwright ~~estimated~~ notified Washington that the food supplies ~~were~~ <sup>would</sup> be completely depleted by April 15.

On Good Friday, April 3, re-enforced with Infantry, Artillery and bombers, General Homma unleashed the most savage <sup>artillery</sup> attack of the entire campaign. It commenced at 10:00 a.m. with no let up for two hours. Shells from sixteen batteries of 155 mm cannon seemed to explode on top of each other. <sup>Scarcely a</sup> ~~square~~ <sup>yard</sup> ~~seemed to be missed.~~ <sup>was left unscathed.</sup> A two and one half mile wide sector directly in front of Mt. Samat was pulverized. The shelling was followed by <sup>explosives from</sup> wave after wave of bombers over the same area. The first flight dropped incendiaries which <sup>converted</sup> ~~enveloped~~ the jungle into a ~~very~~ terrifying inferno. ~~As the men ran back to the second line of defense some were cremated. The exploding shells and bombs were deafening. The heat and noise were maddening. Staying in their foxholes was impossible, due to the heat and the threat of being burned to death.~~

~~Those who had ducked down~~ <sup>IN</sup> ~~into~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~their~~ foxholes <sup>the</sup> ~~felt~~ secure from the shelling, but now a <sup>decision</sup> ~~choice~~ had to be made. Distressingly, there was little ~~chance~~ <sup>required</sup> staying in their foxholes ~~without~~ withstanding the intense heat plus the threat of being burned alive; getting out ~~posed~~ <sup>the danger of being</sup> ~~they might~~ be cut down by shrapnel. As the wild flames ~~closed~~ in, each man tried to make a dash to the rear. Some made it, only to be greeted by more artillery explosions <sup>in the areas to which they</sup> ~~one hundred yards to the rear.~~ <sup>tried to flee.</sup>

By 3 P.M., when the Japanese Infantry attack was launched, two Philippine Army Regiments were in a shambles. The door was open for General Nara's 65th Brigade to smash through.