

# Philippines Fall To Japan In May 1942

Get into a conversation with a long-time Queens resident and you're likely to discover a subscriber of the *Long Island Star-Journal*, a daily paper that informed the community about local and world news until it folded in 1968. A banner across the *Star-Journal* masthead reminded readers that the newspaper's name came from the merger of the *Long Island Daily Star* (1876) and the *North Shore Daily Journal--The Flushing Journal* (1841).

Welcome to May 1942!

Five months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, World War II firmly dominated the headlines.

On May 6, Corregidor in the Philippines, under heavy assault surrendered to the Japanese. The garrison, bombarded night and day by artillery shells, slept in shifts at their guns. Dive-bombers dropped a rain of 1,000-pound bombs on them. One by one, the other forts in Manila Bay fell.

General Jonathan Wainwright arranged capitulation terms for the 10,000 weary, hungry, and disease-ridden American and Filipino defenders. About 3,000



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Wainwright after World War II and promotion to full General

*Photograph from the Army Signal Corps Collection in the U.S. National Archives.*  
MacArthur at the Manila City Hall, Philippine Islands, 2 August 1945.



were civilians. It was 27 days after the fall of Bataan and just a day short of 44 years since Admiral George Dewey had cabled home his victory in the Battle of Manila Bay in the Spanish-American War—the date the United States took possession of the islands. Although the formal resistance was over, knots of brave American and Filipino guerillas who continued to harass communication lines kept in touch with Australia with their weak field radios. General Douglas MacArthur, who was ordered to flee to Australia, pledged his faith as a soldier to



*Photo pubic domain*  
Later in his naval career Bulkeley was promoted to Rear Admiral by President John F. Kennedy.

return.

Stateside, the war effort was beginning to ramp up. On May 5, the sixth minesweeper to be built in Whitestone in the past seven weeks slid into the East River. The boat was christened at the Wheeler Shipbuilding

Corporation's yard at the foot of 154th Street. Officials at the Wheeler yard indicated that minesweeper production was gradually being stepped up and would soon maintain a pace of

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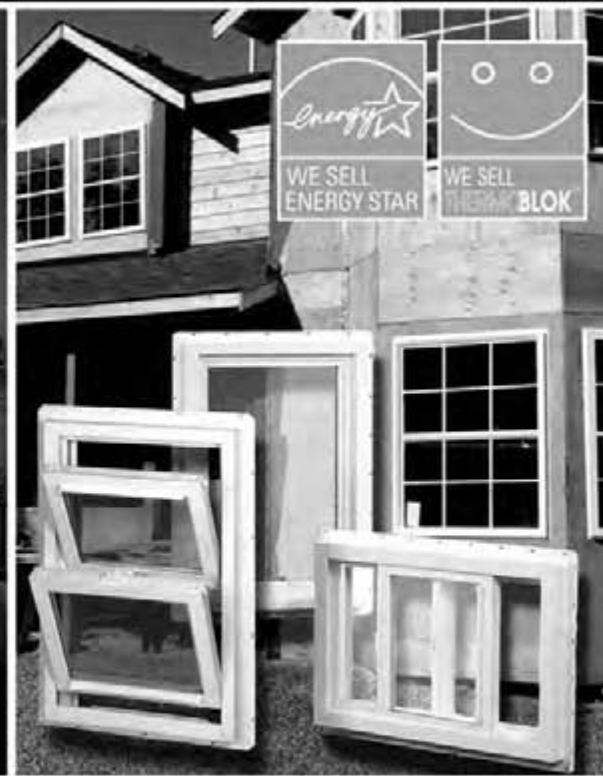


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