

RETURN TOLD BY WHITNEY

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—(AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur, fulfilling his "I Shall Return" pledge, carried his father's pistol as he waded ashore in the Philippines "just to insure that I am never captured alive."

The dramatic landing, one of the turning points of the war in the Pacific, was described today by Maj. Gen. Courtney Whitney, wartime aide and friend of MacArthur, in the first of a series of articles in Life Magazine.

Whitney said the morning of the Philippine landing at Leyte beach, Oct. 20, 1944, "I went to MacArthur's cabin and entered just as he was slipping an old-fashioned revolver into his trouser pocket.

" 'That, court, belonged to my father,' he said in explanation. 'I take it merely as a precaution — just to insure that I am never captured alive.'"

As the landing craft approached the beach, Whitney said he watched MacArthur closely for signs of the emotion he must have felt.

"His face was expressionless under the familiar gold-leaf-decorated cap that he had worn when he was Field Marshal of the Islands to which was now returning. It was as if this were a routine ride to shore, instead of a dendezvous with history," Whitney wrote.

Whitney described the difficulties MacArthur encountered as the time approached for his Philippine campaign after years of effort and preparation.

ATROCITIES.

In July, 1943, Whitney said, MacArthur received a heart-breaking witness account from three Americans who escaped from the Japanese prison camp at Davao in the Philippines.

MacArthur, deeply moved by the story of Japanese atrocities against war prisoners, issued a statement saying in part:

"No other belligerent of modern times has so debased an honorable service . . . it will become my sacred duty at the appropriate time to demand justice on those who have so barbarously violated all justice."

Whitney said "that same day we received orders from Washington forbidding the release of any of the details of these prisoner of war atrocities. I am convinced that this was because the 'Europe-firsters' then in power did not want an aroused public indignation to compel the diversion of a larger proportion of our military resources to the Pacific."

In July, 1944, Whitney said MacArthur was summoned to Pearl Harbor for a meeting with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

GOT ORDERS.

MacArthur was told that the Joint Chiefs had advised Roosevelt to bypass the Philippines.

Whitney said MacArthur drew the President aside and said:

.. "Mr. President, if your decision be to bypass the Philippines and leave its millions of wards of the United States and thousands of American internees and prisoners of war to continue to languish in their agony and deespair—I dare to say that the American people would be so aroused that they would register most complete resentment against you at the polls this fall."

Whitney added, "the President had already made up his mind. He replied at once: 'we will not bypass the Philippines. Carry out your existing plans, and may God protect you.'"

After the Leyte landing, Whitney said, "Japanese planes kept attacking MacArthur's headquarters . . . one pilot who nearly accomplished his mission sent two 50-caliber bullets through MacArthur's open window and into the wall only a few inches over his desk. An aide rushed in and found him working imperturbably at the desk.

" 'Well, 'said the General, 'what is it?'

" 'Thank God, General, 'the aide said. 'I thought you were killed.'

'MacArthur replied, "not yet. Thank you for coming in.'"