

the meeting of the Cabinet and took my Oath of Office as Secretary of National Defense. Returned to the office now being arranged at the Eastern University.

Returned home 7:30 pm.

Dec. 24, 1941.

At 8 a.m. I attended the meeting of the Cabinet at Mariguina. It was discussed that the situation was becoming serious. The enemy had landed at Atimonan and Mauban. The President advised us that Gen. MacArthur had told him to prepare to leave for C- at 2 hours' notice.

At 9 a.m. I left for my office. At 10 am. Gen de Jesus and I were called rush to USHFFE Headquarters for an urgent conference. Gen. Sutherland told me that I was to be at 1 p.m. at Malacañan, ready to leave with President. At 1 p.m. sharp I was at Malacañan. There was an air raid. When the "all-clear" signal was sounded, we left Malacañan for the Presidential landing, boarded the launch Baler, and boarded the S.S. Mayon which was anchored off the coast of Malabon. At 2:30 p.m. another raid alarm was sounded. The departure

was delayed because the Chief Engineer of the Mayon had not arrived and could not be located. Finally we left at 4 p.m. without the Chief Engineer. This delay constituted a blessing in disguise as Japanese planes had raided Corregidor and Mariveles at 4 p.m. sinking one boat and setting in flames a French ship the "Marchal Foch".

We landed at Corregidor at 5:30 p.m. The U.S. High Commissioner, Mrs. Sayre & Son and office assistants were on the same boat. We were assigned

beds in two of the hospital tunnels. The men in tunnel N: 11 and the women in tunnel 10. We are fairly comfortable but I fear the living in the tunnel for a prolonged period is not healthy. The President is accompanied by his family and various servants. Officially he is accompanied by the Vice President (Osmeña) who has in addition been appointed Secretary of Public Instruction & Sec. of Health. by Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos who in addition has been appointed acting Sec. of Justice, & acting Sec. of Finance, and myself who in addition to being Chief of Staff

