



"Execute!"



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Signalmen released their halyards, flags dropped, and with a mighty roar from their carefully tuned engines, the amphitracks leaped forward in a single line, led by a Coast Guard guide boat.

The Philippines were just 200 miles off the ship in the crowded beachmaster's barge at 0830 - just sixty minutes before H-hour. Our destination: The control boat riding at anchor well inshore of the great armada which had cake-walked in through heavily-mined Leyte Gulf. From here the first landing wave would take off on the initial assault.



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