



BRIBES, THREATS, PROMISES AND SPIES WERE TRIED IN VAIN BY THE JAPANESE TO GET SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION FROM THE JESUITS AT THEIR FAMOUS OBSERVATORY IN MANILA

*Chas. Deppermann, S.J.*

“**K**NOCK, knock, knock!” It is only an hour or two after midnight on that eventful January 2nd, 1941, when the Japanese Army entered Manila, and already they are banging at the doors of the Observatory. Up the stairs they come, and affix the following notice at the entrance and exit of the Observatory wing on the second floor:

*“By order, the Imperial Japanese Army duly seized these premises or properties, being hostile possessions or suspected hostile ones.*

*“Anyone who touches these shall be severely prosecuted, according to the military laws.*

*“Commander-in-Chief of Japanese Army*

Within the next three or four months, several attempts were actually made to take possession of the Observatory for the benefit of the Japanese Army's weather forecasting unit, but each time we met them with the objection: “This is not government property, but ‘ecclesiastical property of Rome’.” Most probably because of the magic word “Rome,” our objection was sustained, and the Japanese weather men settled down instead in the Engineering Building of the University of the Philippines nearby.

If they considered the Observatory

**Father Guzman-Rivas, S.J., Filipino Jesuit, at the famous observatory of the Ateneo de Manila, now destroyed.**

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“No weather reports today”