THEY WERE EXPENDABLE

by W. L. White

W.N.U. FEATURES

© WHITE

SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER I—The story of their part in the battle for the Philippines is told in this and the following chapters by four of the five naval officers who are all mentioned in act of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3. They are Lieutenant, Sandeman, commander of the squadron; Lieut. R. B. Kelly; and Ensigns Anthony Akers and George E. Cox Jr. (The fifth officer, Lieut. Henry J. Bulkeley, has since arrived safely in Australia.) The squadron, based around Bataan, was ordered to evacuate the Philippines in the fall of 1941. In the last dispatches we envisaged, the events of December 7 were as much of a surprise to them as to anyone, because they thought the Philippines would be attacked first.

Lieut. Kelly, second-in-command, to whom Bulkeley delegated the task of preparing the story, describes his preparations for war. Hearing about secret operations orders, he went to the officers' Club in Manila on the eve of Pearl Harbor and had a thick steak with all the trimmings. After receiving the orders from Bulkeley the next afternoon, he drove with his wife to Fort Mariveles, on Bataan, where they were to revert to the submarine tender for provisions and fuel. When they got there they found the tender had been ordered away. So they set up makeshift headquarters in motor launches at Sisiman Cove.

CHAPTER II—Lieut. Kelly continues. Refueling the boats from drums was a dangerous job. They found water and fuel in the gas, but didn't know then that the gas had been sabotaged. Japs had a badly guided flight, but Kelly takes their bombs to be the first big air raid Bulkeley describes.

CHAPTER III—Lieut. Kelly tells how he was sent to a funeral hospital on Corregidor, while he met Peggy at Cabcaben. Survivors from the sinking of a Chinese refugee boat were brought to the hospital. Returning from Manila, Kelly learned that there was battle the war was going.

CHAPTER IV—A member of a raft crew rescued by the Japs continues the story of their escape as told to Lieut. Kelly in the tunnel hospital on Corregidor. Kelly tells of the bravery of the hospital staff, and especially of the nurse Peggy, during a severe bombardment. Akers leaves the tunnel to reconnoiter just before Manila fell.

CHAPTER V—Lieutenant Akers continues and Ensign Cox adds his story of the fall of Manila. The Japs came within sight of the tunnel. Lieut. Kelly's New Year's Eve Kelly tells how Lieut. Bulkeley brought the boat in the tunnel. The Admiral's plan of escape was discussed. Kelly, Akers and Cox, in boats, the 31 and the 34, went out into the Bataan Bay on a night foray.

CHAPTER VI—Lieut. Bulkeley continues. Wave the 34 Japs attacked Lieut. Bulkeley, in the 34 had, mistaken up to repeat a cruiser. Lieut. Kelly tells what happened to the 31. Bulkeley, Kelly, Sandeman and Cox escaped from Bataan, drifted and finally reached Corregidor. Lieut. Kelly tells how he returned. Lieut. Kelly brought the doctor to let him out of the hospital and went out on patrol. The Japs set up a floating party, then cornered "a floating birth."

CHAPTER VII—Lieut. Kelly continues. Lieut. Wave the 34 Japs attacked Lieut. Bulkeley, in the 34 had, mistaken up to repeat a cruiser. Lieut. Kelly tells what happened to the 31. Bulkeley, Kelly, Sandeman and Cox escaped from Bataan, drifted and finally reached Corregidor. Lieut. Kelly tells how he returned. Lieut. Kelly brought the doctor to let him out of the hospital and went out on patrol. The Japs set up a floating party, then cornered "a floating birth."

CHAPTER VIII—Lieut. Kelly continues. "The enemy cruiser kept firing at the Japs—from Twelve Corregidor her landing party and been headed home. One was dead, two were wounded, and second Class Cox was a prisoner.

"Bulkeley had his 31 in his hand when he jumped aboard, and he needlessly risk Jim Cox's life to his brave and begin to call. He screwed—Cox's parents—Cox.

"He was taking Cox's place in the 34 when he jumped aboard, and he needlessly risk Jim Cox's life to his brave and begin to call. He screwed—Cox's parents—Cox.

"Bulkeley had his 31 in his hand