

NEW TESTAMENT
AND PSALMS

W. A. STOECKEL

To our oldest son
William Allen Staechel
from
Mother & Dad
as he enters Navy
Oct 6th 1948.

May God ever Bless
and watch over you
is our prayers.

Remember Math 4-4
Luke 18-1

MAY 1

1944 Left Boeing Field in
Seattle WASH. for the
island of Adak. Pan
American Plane 9: AM

1944 12: Noon. Having
wonderful trip. Sampling
beautiful. Having Fried
Chicken 14000 ft up.

1944 2 PM. Landed for fuel
at a little Island
Resumed flight

1944 5 PM Landed at Adak
for the night. Sleeping in
Army barracks

MAY 2

1944 7 AM Took off again
Having swell time

1944 11 AM Stopped for
fuel Resumed flight

1944 3 PM. Adak at last.
beautiful island. Sun
shining will join my
wife in the morning

1944 5 PM. Snow time
and is it good. Better
than the States.

JUNE 5

19 Left Mindoro island
Philippines at 4 P.M. on
the invasion of Borneo
aboard U.S.S. Wilkes

19

19

19

JUNE 6



19

Am at Poste Princess
Palawan. Everything
fine.

19

19

19

19

JUNE 7

19

Go at the lower end
of Palawan island
waiting Convoy

19

5 P.M. Joined Convoy
heading for destination
about 100 ships all
together.

19

19

19

Labuan island
at
Victoria

JUNE 10

19 Dropped anchor in
Bruni Bay and
watched Warships
shell beach. There
has been no war plans.
Troops of Russia
loaded on schedule.
Had about 3 L Gs.
19 but no planes.

19

19

JUNE 11

19 Every thing quiet.
Can't understand it
no planes no opposition
sure is funny thing.
19 Had 2 L Gs today
but no planes.

19

19

19

JUNE 14

19 Convoy of supplies
arrived today also
dry dock and equipment.

19 No plans -

19

19

19

Nov. 27. Time 11:30 AM Place ~~SA~~ One hour out
of San Pedro Bay
Leyte Island Ph.

I was standing in Crow line on
Starboard side of ship when U.S. Task
force which was on horizon opened fire
on Enemy planes. First barrage got one
plane. S.G. sounded on and as I was
running to my station, which was in
the machine shop I saw a large
formation of planes directly over Task
force. During raid one Bathwren got 5 planes
at one time, a destroyer got two and a
armed guard crew of a transport got one. Bombs
dropped very close around our ship, three
as close as 150 yds. directly ahead of ship.
Raid lasted one hour + two minutes, S.G. lasted
two hours, there were no casualties.

Nov. 27, time 8:10 PM Place San Pedro Bay

Standing on weather deck I saw bombs
start fire on fuel on beaches. Ack ack fire
like the sky as rows of tracer shells
screamed upward. S.G. sounded so went to
my station. No more bombs dropped, and no more
planes sighted. Took over No 4 look out post
had nothing to report. S.G. lasted one hour 10
minutes.

Nov. 28, Time 2: AM Place San Pedro Bay.

Enemy plane over head very high
~~the~~ lights on beach picked it up and ack.
ack very heavy for while. No S.G.

I wasn't very scared but not happy
either. Expect another raid very soon.
Dec 6. 5:30 PM San Pedro Bay. Air Raid.
Big raid. Plenty ack! ack! Bombs around
ship. No Mustangs for safety.

DECEMBER 12

1944

19

Left Leyte in Convoy
of over 150 ships at 4:30
PM. All is quiet

19

19

19

19

DECEMBER 13

19

Still no attacks
by Japs. Thank God
for that.

19 10:45 AM Cruiser Nashville hit
by Jap torpedo plane. Suffered
considerable damage.

19 4: PM Japs attack
4 are shot down
no damage to ships
or personnel

19

19

DECEMBER 14

19

Japs attacking force
Boys on guns real heroes
They stick to them in
fire of hell.

19

19

6: PM Japs attack again
many are shot down
no damage suffered as
yet.

19

Tomorrow is D day

19

Japs have 27 air strikes
within 30 minutes
flying time of Mine (or).

D DAY DECEMBER 15 Mindoro

- 19 Sighted isle 3: AM
B.W. Crusiers carriers and
cans began shelling beach
from San Jose to Red Beach.

19 8 AM. Army landed at 9 Japs
LST ahead
LST behind
us in
middle
unhurt
attack convoy. Two succeeded on
LST. God saved us. Lost 2 LST.
before beaching at Red Beach 12 Noon.

- 19 2:40 PM was 8th man ashore apparently
snipers was scared 3:30 PM Japs
came in. was shot down. Must get
supplies off LST. Jap attack all night.

- 19 stood vigil watch all night Japs
still there. Have prayed all day
and night. God is with us.
Japs dropped flame for

19 pictures will get it ~~hard~~
hard tomorrow from Bombs.

DECEMBER 16

- ^{sup}
- 19 7 AM Betty came in crashed on
supplies, set fire to fuel hose
of our boys. Japs attacked all
day. Haven't had any sleep yet.
Bombing are terrific. Hellwars
are breaking under strain.
Mines are shots. Shaking like
leaf. Pray god have mercy and
save us as we know he
is the only one that can.

Have ~~stayed~~ ^{claypot} in fox hole all night.
We are having hell no
air support at all. if only
U.S. planes were here it would
help. Radioed for air support.
3 PM 8-38³ came over left at

19 nite Japs gave us hell
all nite

DECEMBER 17

- 19 Sunday here and Japs still giving it to us. Praying to God for safety. No aid support yet. Air strikes
- 19 not finished. - Japs suicide 300 Boat killing 7 wounding 8. Ammunition all most gone have to hold out till do
- 19 for supplies air support. God will have to help it we make it as we are cracking under strain.
- 19 My nurses are spot need help from God. Glad people at home are praying. Have faith that he will
- 19 watch over us. No sleep yet.

DECEMBER 18

- 19 Monday Japs still pounding us. No supplies very little fuel. No very little ammo left. Boats are taking
- 19 terrible beating. Have knocked down 10 planes. Have used 75% of one month supplies of ammunition in 3 days
- 19 But look is black but we have faith in God and people at home. Japs are out to get us. Tokio Rose
- 19 says they will get us all. Men are breaking under strain. No air support. Med it so bad. Pray to
- 19 God it will come soon.

DECEMBER 19

19 Japs still giving it to us, how we can hold out. No supplies. Boats are really getting a

19 beating. Need help badly. This afternoon Army gave us 25 cans of Jolly Ammunition. This

19 is all they can give us. Expect Convoy of supplies 20th or 21st.

6:30 PM Japs Bombed and strafed

19 us. 5 stood watch on gasoline 8 to 12. Japs tried 5 times to hit it on my watch. official word Japs have

19 Bombed and strafed us 50 times in 5 days since we landed here. Spent first time tonight 4 hours.

DECEMBER 20

+ 19 Awoke early had Chow. Air Raid blew, hit fox hole. Then couldn't keep from crying because they were our planes.

19 Thank God, every one, happy thanking God for help.

+ 8:30 AM looked out on horizon and there was 45 C47

19 Cargo planes coming in. It was glorious. They dropped ammunition and food. Last night after fight, Boats had only

+ 19 600 rounds of 40 mm left for 28 Boats. Thank God he

never fails us. We have 15 fighters planes and bombers. 19 will be here tomorrow.

God is so good. Can't thank him enough. Has given courage. It has been hell on

600 rounds - 20 boats - last 15 seconds -

DECEMBER 21

19 Had 5 raids between 6 + 10 P.M. last nite total 55 raids to date

X Has been quite all

19 day, the first since we landed here

6 P.M. Jap attack but thank God the P38^s

19 are taking care of him.

My nerves are much better. Still hit the fox hole at all raids

19 Pray God watch over Ted and keep us. Have learned to trust him and praise him for

19 his goodness. Would like to write home but can't for 8 days yet.

DECEMBER 22

19 Japs attacked 6 times last nite Total to date for one week 61 times

19 Bomb fell 200 ft from me. God was with me and so wasn't hurt.

Just missed dock.

19 8 P.M. Japs attack

more time trying to get one cowboy Buffail except we lost two L.S.T.^s

19 Moved into house with

Jimm Atkins and friends. Had player and song while Japs bombed

19 our island. We were all down in our bomb shelter God was there with us.

This was on 4 AM and 8 PM watch operation building short.

DECEMBER 23

* 19 Thank God for plane
protection and plenty of it.
We could use some sleep
I have slept 14 hours since
19 landing here.

Planes attack all
nite Had 7 raids
sure seem out to

* 19 get up. Praise God
for Protection. Had
a watch 8-12 Had
prayer in fox hole with
19 other fellows in tent
God was truly there.

19

DECEMBER 24

19 Nothing exciting happened
so far today. Plane
* protection is good C47's
came in again today
19 with supplies
Thank God for protection
and Grace.

Planes attack 3 times

19 before 12 mid nite but
never got thru ack ack.

* The rest of nite was
peaceful. We thank

19 God for that as this
was the longest period
sleep we have had since
landing here.

19

DECEMBER 25

19 Merry Christmas.

* Japs attack 8: AM
but met a perfect
circle of ack ack fire.

19 He failed to get thru.

* Had Christmas dinner
here at 2:00 PM. Had Turkey
sweet potatoes, peas, fruit

19 cocktail Ice cream, cake
nuts and candy. G. Liberty
ship brought our food
in yesterday. It was sure

19 swell. We expected it
being only 10 days after landing
here.

Japs bombed again
19 last nite, no damage
done.

DECEMBER 26

19 x stood watch 4-8 this
morning but nothing
happened. Thank God
for it.

19 Had very quiet day
no wind rain so far
and it is 6: PM.

* 6:10 word received Jap took

19 force approaching expecting
landings. Not enough guns
for everyone have only small
amount of ammunition. Only 25

19 bombs to stop 14 war ship.

Out look very black. They have
ins bottled up. Are digging
in for last stand. Have

19 prayed and believe God to
see us thru.

Mindora Dec 26, 1944
6. PM.

Jap invasion fleet
90 miles out heading for
us. Only 350 men to hold
this point. Only about
30 rounds of ammunition
per man and about 50
of us with no guns.
We have only knives.

We will be second
line of defense. There
will be only two lines.

Darling I love you
both and pray God
keep you. I have placed
your pictures in this
bible. Only God knows
if we'll live till
morning but we will hold

From WA Stoeckel Bible
Mindora Dec 26, 1944
6. PM.

Jap invasion fleet
90 miles out heading for
us. Only 350 men to hold
this point. Only about
30 rounds of ammunition
per man and about 50
of us with no guns.
We have only knives.
We will be second
line of defense. There
will be only two lines.
Darling, I love you
both and pray God
keep you. I have placed
your pictures in this
bible. Only God knows
if we'll live till
morning but we will hold
this point.

DECEMBER 27

* 19 Was shelled bombed and strafed
last nite but no landings
were made. God answered
prayer. I slept thru the
worst of it in my fox hole.
have 4 & 8 watch & nite.

* Had to go 6 miles down
the straits after 80-82 boats.
19 which were on rocks. Got
them off but Japs attack
before we got back. Thought
time had come but God
saw us thru.

Planes used all gasoline and
Bombs that was on one
19 Air strip when Japs
pulled out.

77 Boat strafed by Jap Plane using
daisy Cutters

DECEMBER 28

19 Had very quiet day but
expect Miss tonight as
usual.

God & I for quiet nite
19 and he did just that.
Planes came over but
our 90's took care of
them.

* 19 We had prayer in our
fox hole and God
was truly there.

19

19

DECEMBER 29

19 Every thing going
good. Most Planes
of ours are here and
feel more secure
each day

19 God has truly took
care of us in a
wonderful way which
we thank him for.
6: P.M. Air raid just
sounder, as yet no
planes except our
19 over head.

* Japs. raided untill
4: A.M. sent 2 ships
Praise God for
19 Protection

One 26.

DECEMBER 30

19 Had quiet day. Conway
Bame in this morning
Japs Attack 4: P.M.
* sunk Crestase L.S.T.
19 P.T. tender. Helped with
the wounded. Sure
terrible Pray God for
protection this night
19 as we will need it
God answered prayer
and no planes got thru
Had good sleep from 12
19 to 7: A.M.

Praise God for his
goodness to us.

19

DECEMBER 31

19 Still removing survivors
from "Orustee" Lost a
lot of men. 60 men lost.

I thank God it
19 wasn't any worse.
I love him so much.

This is New years eve on
19 the island of Mindora.
May God watch over us
this night.

19

19

JANUARY 1

1945

- *19 Japs attack 12:40 AM
Dropped bomb near
my friend Woods.
Broke leg and arm
- *19 Took him to Army Hospital
Pray God for Protection
- *
19 Injured & Killed 11
all men from the
Orsted
- *
19 Japs sunk all ships
that came in harbor
except one total 12
lost in 15 days.

JANUARY 2

* 19 Had day off to go see
Woods. He is leaving
for States tomorrow
We will miss him.

19 Pray God go with him
and keep him.

* Bombers raided from
1 PM to 7 A.M. Fewer

19 set up all nets.

What a life

19

19

JANUARY 3

* 19 Had a quiet day after
last night. And thank
God for it.

Mo. said until 9 PM

19 only 2 raids by 3:30 AM

* my watch was 4 AM to
8 AM and was said
continually

19

19

19

JANUARY 4

19 Had very nice day
no raids as yet.
God is wonderful.

* 19 6:PM Japs attacked
convoy that just arrived.
Sunk one ship
subsided dive.

19 Concussion was Terrible.

only 2 raid the
rest of night and they
never got there.

Our ship sunk. felt
like earth quake was
19 1/4 mile from it. PT 78-81
damage trying to pick up
survivors.

JANUARY 5

19 Day was nice and
quite. We have
complete air superiority
now.

19 Ship well sent till
4:15 AM. When raids
started God was good
and no one was hurt.

* 19 I had 4 PM to 8 PM watch
no raids. This is the
first time since landing
here. that I had watch
19 without raids.

* Page 28.

JANUARY 6

19 It is noon and
everything has been
quiet. It doesn't
→ seem possible

19 On Jan 5th We had
been here 3 weeks
During that time one
boat accounted for

19 27 Planes 1 destroyer
3 gas barges.

No Raid all night
19 had 2 alerts but
no planes.

19

JANUARY 7

19 Wonderful day no
raid And only one
alert last night.
No planes got thru
19 Early & G.D. is good
to see. We feel
that maybe the
place will soon
19 be secured.

Received our first
19 MAIL
Today.

19

Surabit!!

JANUARY 8

19 Worked hard all day and read mail in all my spare time.

19 Received packages from Mom and stationary from Carolyn.

19 Got my mail & will be writing letters for a month. It is 6:PM and

19 everything quite so far.

19

JANUARY 9

19 Had a quite day and no raids which I thank God for.

Everything was swell today.

19 No raids all night.

We landed on Luzon so that accounts for

19 no raids.

19

19

JANUARY 10

19 Had a nice day so
far. Ray & I give
us a good night's
sleep

19 Everything quite

19

19

19

JANUARY 11

19 Had very nice day
no excitement
No Raids (Fetts)
field swell to

19 sleep all night
Havent had my
clothes off yet &
go to bed

19

19

19

JANUARY 12

19

We Japs again
to day our boys
are giving it to
them at Iwahide

19

Thank God for the
peace and quietness.

19

19

19

JANUARY 13

19

Nice day and 70°
extremum

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 14

19 plane crashed and
burned at 6.20 AM
sure to bad as was
one of ours as he was
19 taking off for morning
Petrol. P.B.M.

19

19

19

JANUARY 15

19 Everything quite here
Nothing has happened

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 16

19 Looks like Base may
soon be considered
secured.

Had Speech by.

19 Capt Bowling Commander
of all P.T. Squadron in S.W.P.

Speech is in my records.

19 said - Navy thanks you
for your gallant stand
I feel great honor.

19

19

JANUARY 17

19 Very quiet day now.
Got some walking done.
Got mail yesterday
for several hours.

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 18

19 Nice day No Radder
almost feel secure
Thank God

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 19

19 ~~Slept~~ all night for
first time.
Saw felt good

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 20

19 Stood guard # to 8 AM
no excitement
Very nice day so far 12: Noon.

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 21

19 Nice day everything quite
Evening. Jap plane
sneaked in & dropped
58 small 2 lb. bombs
on air strip. One base
which he crossed over
was lite up like
Coney island.

19 No damage to air
strip & no casualties

19

19

JANUARY 22

19 Very nice day except
for daylight raid
by Japs at 12:20 PM.

19 No damage done
as all were shut down
Had 3 alerts in the
evening. No Bombs dropped
on Sase.

19

19

19

JANUARY 23

19 fine day so far. have
been off from work for
past 3 days with nail
in my foot.

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 24

19 Everything seems
to be settling here and
we are getting
quite a bit of sleep.

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 25

19 P.T. Base 4 moved in &
take over today so we
may be moving soon

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 26

19

Nothing new today

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 27

19

Every thing going
fine ✓

19

19

19

19

JANUARY 28

19 Looks like place
is secure
Heard official report
on our island window

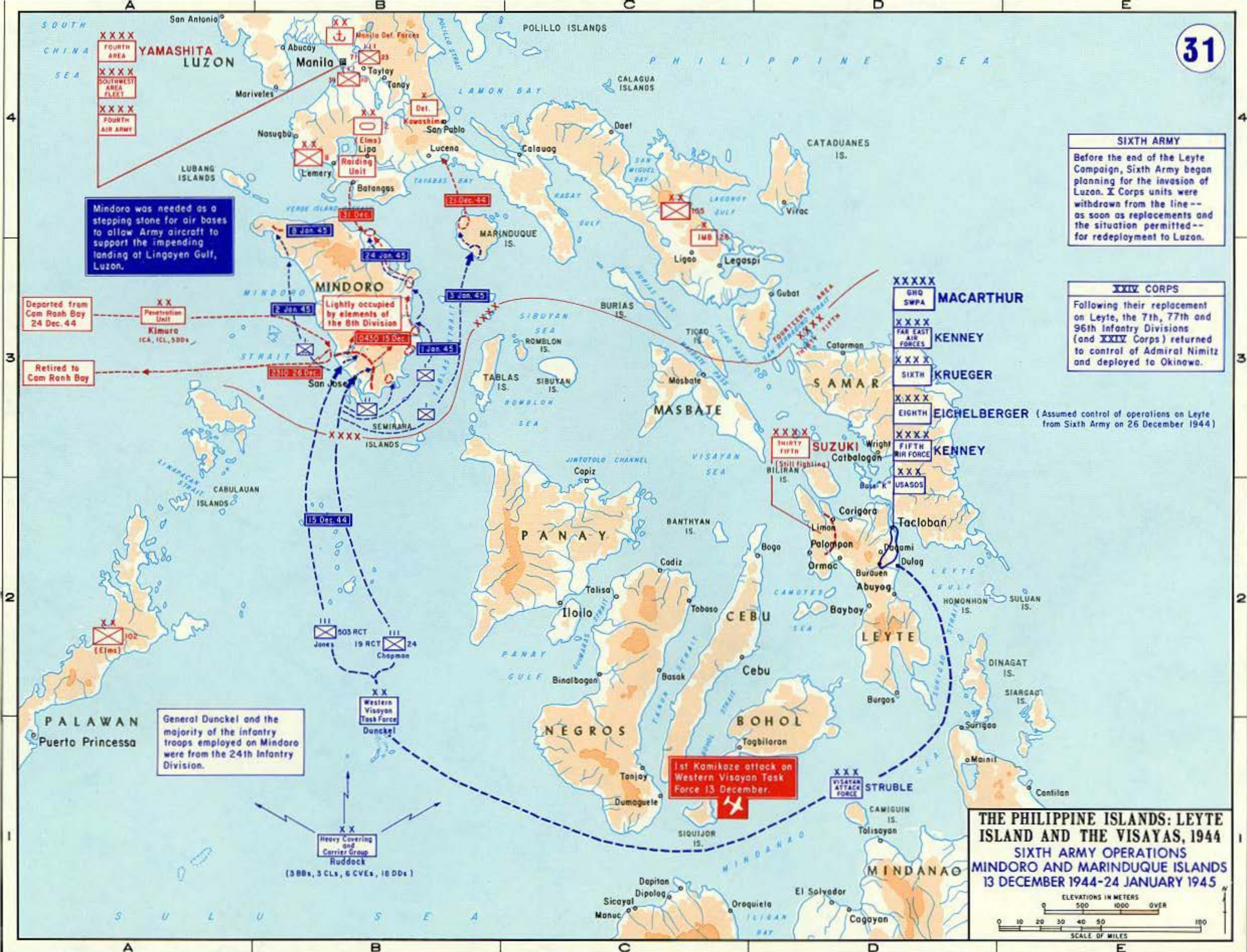
19 First 15 days had 345
raids - 23 times every
24 hours - Most heavily
attacked continued

19 7 in South West Pacific

Boat downed more planes
than all other squadrons.

19 put together in S.W.P.
Cutty proved of them.

U.S. Trained Radio Called
19 us mighty 700 for
stand against Jap Dec 26
1944



K1260.

With the "MOSQUITO FLEET"



On the "bridge" of the sixty-knot "PT-9," flagship of the mosquito fleet, is Lt. Commander Earl S. Caldwell, squadron commander of the Navy's first motor torpedo boat squadron; the flag skipper is at the steering station below him. Emblem of the squadron is a mosquito riding a torpedo

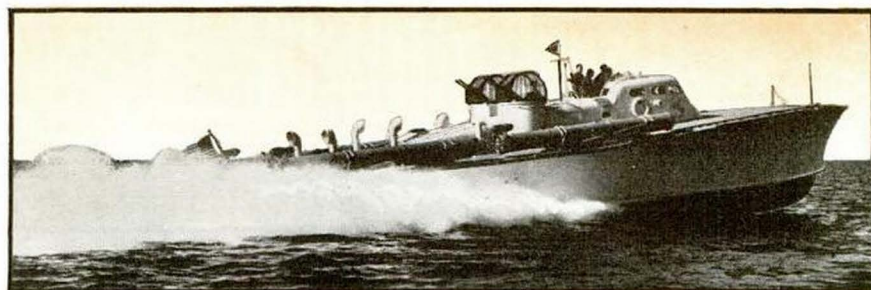
EVEN in a calm sea the toughest tars in Uncle Sam's Navy feel their knees buckling as the mosquito fleet bangs across the bay at fifty knots.

And when you ride one of these floating bronchos at top speed down the slope of a fifteen-foot wave and smack head-on into that green wall of water on the other side—well, this is no place for a weak pair of

legs or an uncertain stomach. Hand and toe grips are no great aid and comfort, and the old boatswain's command of "Both feet on the deck, sailor!" brings a grim laugh.

The men who designed these boats planned them to fulfill a mission—getting somewhere in a grand hurry, doing a job, and pulling away with the same initial speed. It's up to the crewmen to work out

One of the mosquitoes sends foam flying on a fast trial run. Even at top speed, however, these trim vessels cause remarkably little swell. Notice the torpedo tubes and twin revolving gun turrets



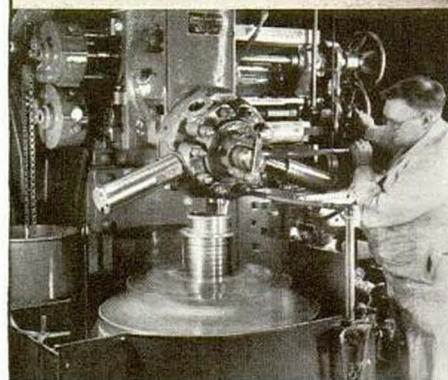
APRIL, 1941

487

Copyrighted material



Above, the PT-9 shows New York's waterfront a burst of speed. Left, boring a cylinder for one of the Packard marine engines with a vertical turret lathe



country lanes in comparison with the fast little torpedo boats.

Changing of watch and shifting stations must always be done beneath battened-down hatches. To use the deck would be suicidal. Going off duty, the men climb into their bunks and immediately strap themselves in to relax and dream of tobogganing through a boulder field.

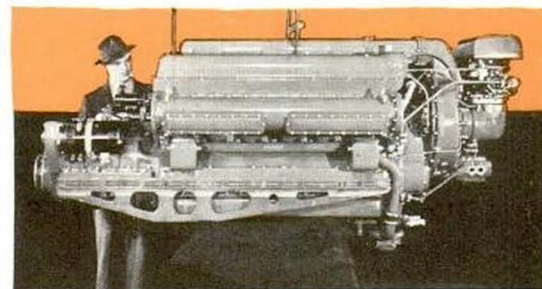
Seamen in every sense of the word, these men are also specialists in gunnery, torpedo work or mechanics. Their training in these boats has been carried out hand in hand with construction development; they are familiar with the capabilities as well as the limitations of the craft. Their job thus

(Continued to page 149A)

their personal problems. Grabbing a bite to eat is one of them, and a serious one. You may be able to munch a sandwich while clinging to the saddle of a wild horse, but try downing a cup of coffee; and coffee is the standby of all good sailors. Manning battle stations, firing machine guns, launching torpedoes must all be accomplished under the same violent conditions—plus, in actual combat, the hazards of facing dive bomber and battleship fire.

No wonder the sailors of the mosquito fleet have to be tough. They may be called upon to "take it" for twenty-four hours at a stretch. Some Navy veterans who volunteered for the service had to quit and go back to the broad decks of the battleship, quiet as

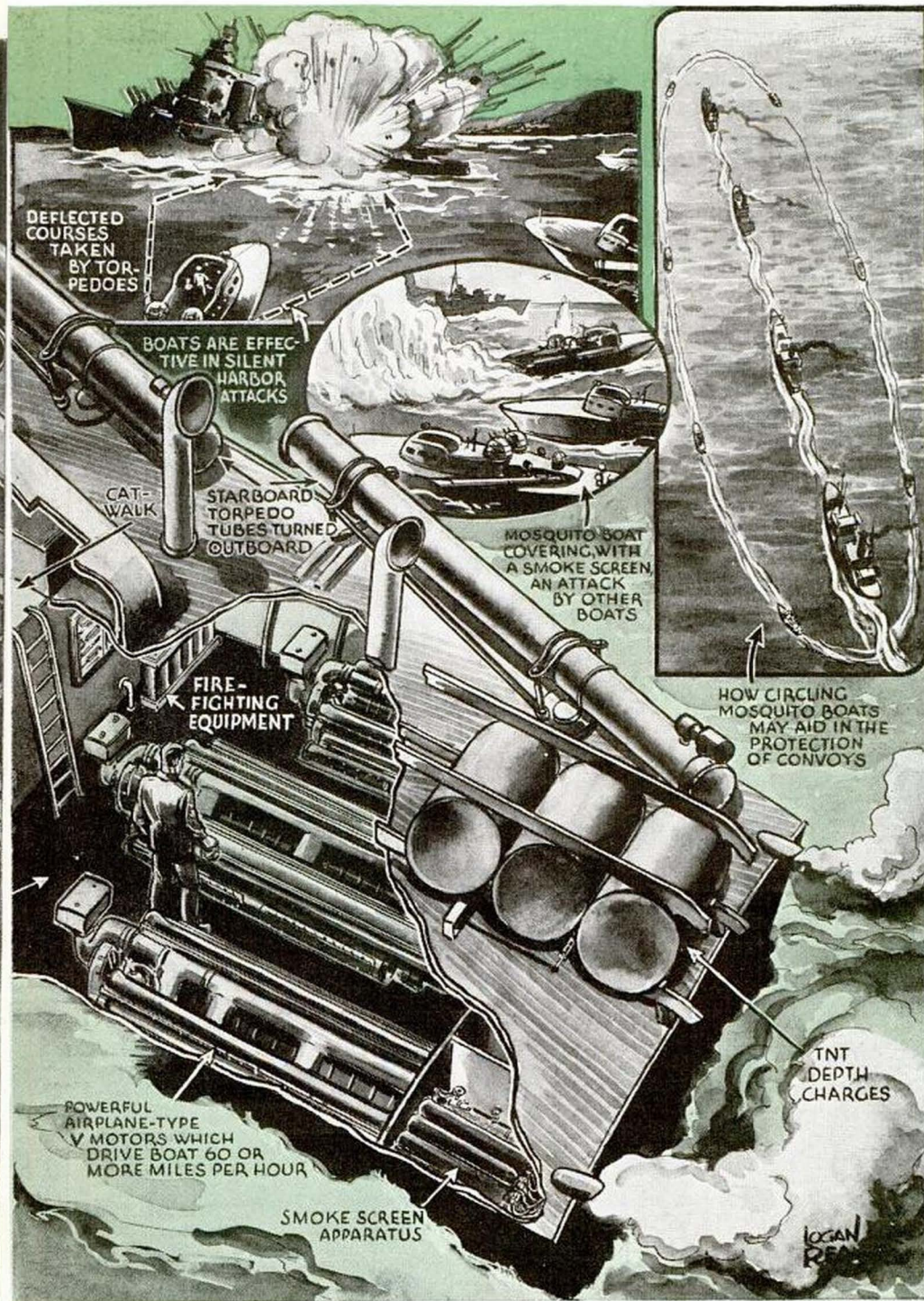
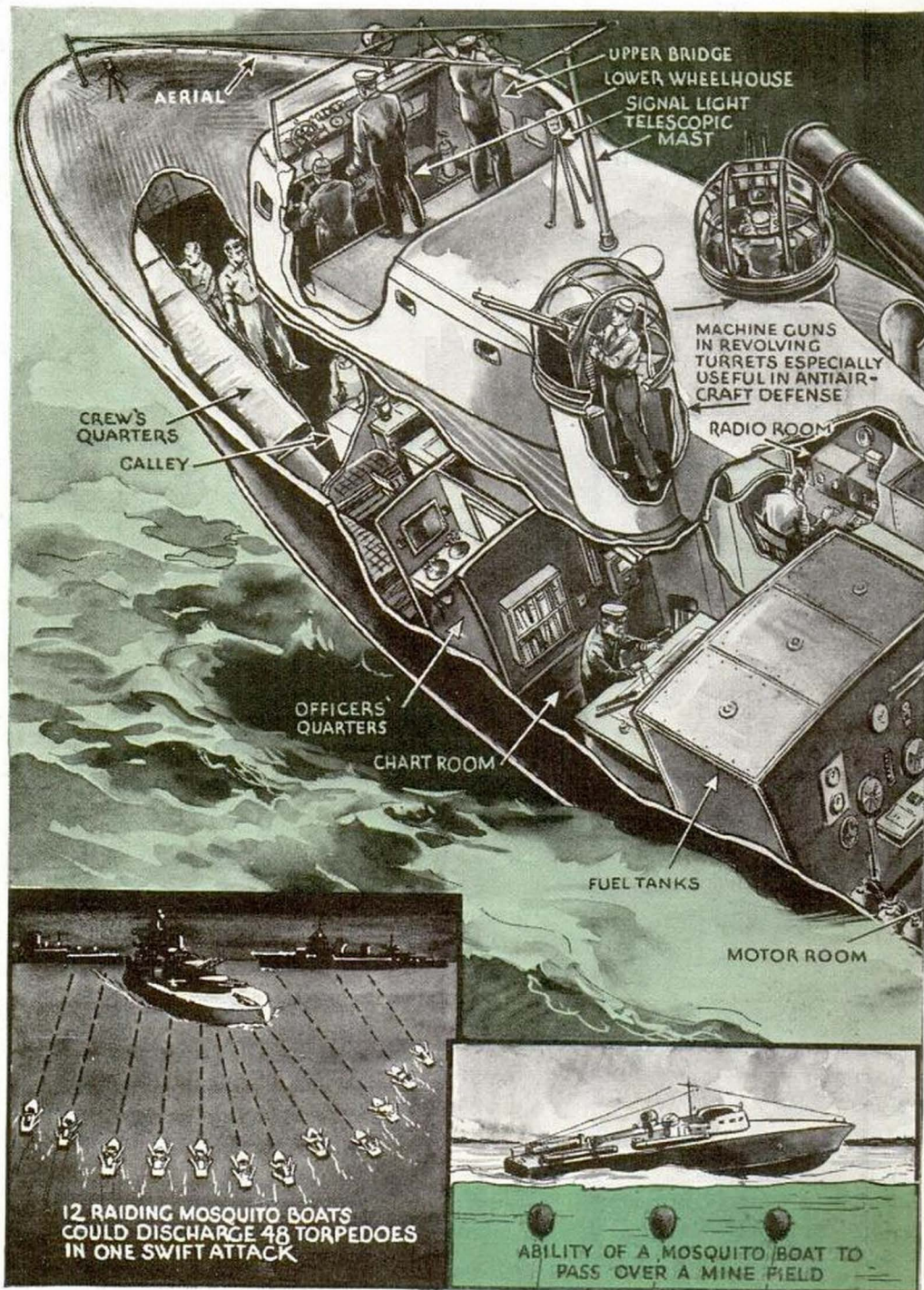
Three of these engines drive the mosquito's three propellers.



POPULAR MECHANICS

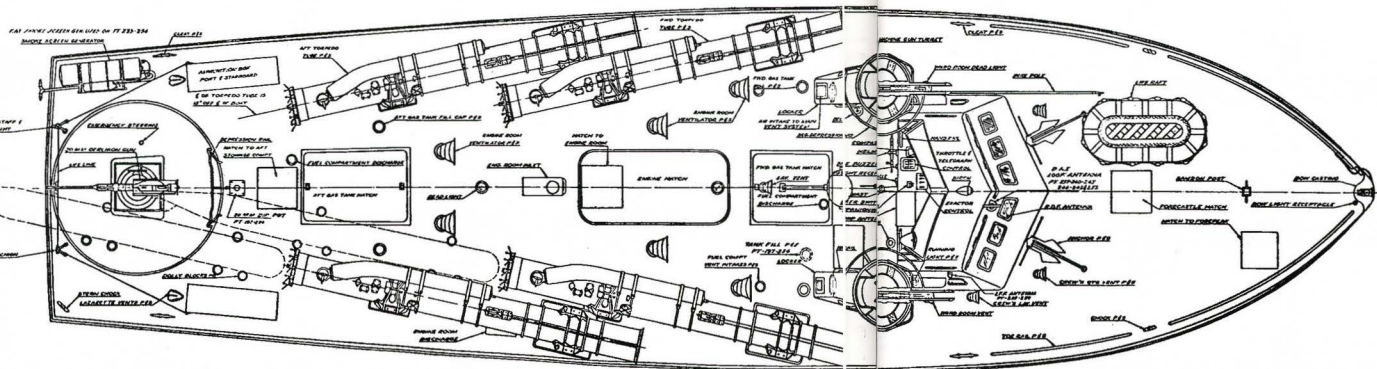
Copyrighted material

490



Cutaway view across the pages gives a glimpse of the compact quarters aboard a motor torpedo boat. Sketches below suggest the terrific sting of a mosquito fleet attack, and the advantage of shallow draft

The upper sketches indicate some of the uses of the mosquito in cooperation with larger warships of the fleet and in convoy duty. It will be observed that the four torpedo tubes are pointed obliquely forward



HIGGINS INDUSTRIES, INC. 521 CITY PARK AVE. NEW ORLEANS LA, U.S.A.	
CONTRACTORS PLAN NO 2602-2D	
ISSUED BY: _____	ISSUED BY: _____
TRACED BY: K.F. LARSEN	TRACED BY: K.F. LARSEN
APPROVED: _____	APPROVED: _____
FORWARDED TO BUREAU: _____	FORWARDED TO BUREAU: _____
LETTER NUMBER: _____	LETTER NUMBER: _____
REFERENCE	
SUBDIVISION OF SOUTHWESTERN, U.S.N NEW ORLEANS LA	
EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT:	PLAN: _____
DATE: _____	DATE OF REVIEW: U.S.
PT 71-84 & PT 199-254	
OUTBOARD PROFILE AND DECK PLAN	
BUREAU OF SHIPS PLAN NUMBER	
484576	