

The Canopus
by
Capt. E. L. Sackett, U.S.N.

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Introduction to the Series

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography were prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English at Western Carolina University. The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship
 - a. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
 - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
 - b. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
 - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
 - c. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
 - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
 - Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate the editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the students. While these students take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are always possible. As these students learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources.

It is hoped that the transcription and annotation of WCU Special Collections materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections materials.

Introduction

By Michael Redman

In the years between the first and second world wars, the West watched with growing alarm the rise of militarism in Japan. Japan began a full-scale invasion of China in the summer of 1937 which culminated in the infamous Nanking Massacre that, an attack on the Great Wall of China in 1938, and continued bombardment of Chinese cities during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Seeking to counteract Japan's economic and military influence in the region, the United States and its allies discontinued sale of oil, steel, and iron ore to Japan. Viewing this embargo as a provocation, Japan saw war with the West as the only way to protect its interests in the Pacific and attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. Japan's attacks on the Philippine Islands in the following days included the bombing of Nichols Field, a U.S. military airfield south of Manila and near the Cavite Navy Yard in Manila where the submarine tender *USS Canopus* was carrying out its duties before being moved north to Mariveles Bay.

These events serve as an opening to the remarkable story of the *USS Canopus* and its men transcribed and edited here. The narrative was written by the captain of the *Canopus*, E.L. Sackett, and his account of the *Canopus* and her impressively resourceful crew is told with striking detail and sophistication. The reader, while grateful for Capt. Sackett's military service, may speculate what might have been offered to a wider readership if he had pursued a literary career.

The copies of the text that served as the basis for this transcription are housed in the department of Special Collections at Western Carolina University's Hunter Library. One of the copies was received by Stephen Owens of Webster, North Carolina, whose son Samuel Owens, was on the crew of the *Canopus* and later held, along with other crew members, as a Japanese prisoner of war after the fall of Bataan. We are pleased to offer this annotated edition of Capt. Sackett's tale of the *Canopus* to historians and scholars, as well as the general public.

Biography of Samuel Robert Owens

Samuel Robert Owens was born in Glenville, North Carolina on April 10, 1918. He was the ninth of eleven children born to Steven John Owens and Frances Elvira Alexander Owens. His family relocated to Webster, North Carolina and He was named salutatorian of the 1936 graduating class of Webster School. He subsequently enrolled in the United States Navy and was stationed on as a crew member of the USS *Canopus* at the Cavite Naval Yard in the Philippines when Pear Harbor was attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. The *Canopus* was scuttled on April 10, 1942, following the fall of Bataan on the previous day.

Samuel Owens, along with the remaining crew of the *Canopus*, were captured by the Japanese and held as prisoners of war until the end of the Second World War. He spent most of his time as a prisoner at the Japanese camp of Fukouaka. Initially, he was listed as Missing in Action by the U.S. Navy until word of his P.O.W. status arrived via a Red Cross P.O.W. list some thirteen months after his capture. For his service during the war, he awarded both a Silver Star and a Bronze Star.

Owens remained in the Navy until 1958. After his discharge, he returned to Jackson County, North Carolina and began attending classes at Western Carolina College (now named Western Carolina University). He graduated in 1961 and taught math and science in Western North Carolina and in Walhalla, South Carolina before retiring in 1980. Samuel Robert Owens died on May 31, 1995.

Editorial Statement

Two typewritten drafts of The *Canopus* were available through Hunter Library special collections. Both copies are 26 pages long and one comes with the letter from Captain C.C. Baughman to Stephen Owens that opens our transcription. One of the copies, which is referred to in footnotes as SC1, is typewritten on thin paper and is the more difficult draft to read. There are misspelling and typographical errors throughout, and the typewritten text is uneven, possibly due to an inexperienced or hurried typist.

The second copy, referred to as SC2, is a much cleaner copy, written on sturdier paper, with the spelling and typographical errors from SC1 not in evidence. SC2 also contains some line

content that does not appear in SC1, although much of it is minor and does not affect the meaning of the text to a large extent. Unfortunately, it has not been established which draft is the “original” of the two or if, in fact, either is an original draft at all. It has also not been established whether Capt. Sackett himself was responsible for typing either copy.

Lacking the necessary guidance in the form of authorial intent that comparisons between drafts and originals might offer, for purposes of readability we chose to transcribe the “cleaner” SC2 and note textual variations from SC1 in the transcription’s footnotes. When errors of spelling or typography appear in SC2, they have not been corrected. For ease of reference, the transcript has been paginated so that the top of each page refers to the corresponding page of text in SC2.

Works Consulted

Hastings, Max. *Inferno: The World at War, 1939-1945*, Vintage, 2012.

Pike, Francis. *Hirohito’s War: The Pacific War 1941-1945*, Bloomsbury, 2015.

Toll, Ian W. *The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944*, Norton, 2015.

THE CANOPUS

By Captain E.L. Sackett, U.S.N.

CHAPTER I

A less likely candidate than the Canopus for the role of heroine in a tale of adventure could hardly be imagined. She was no longer young, and had never been particularly dashing, but her partisans were always ready to ascribe a certain majesty to her appearance. Undeniably, she waddled like a duck, as was pointed out in many a good-natured jibe, but that was only natural in a middle-aged, motherly type, and she was truly “mama-san”¹ to her brood of submarines, which used to forage with her from the Philippines² to the China coast and back again each year.

Built in 1921 to be a combination freight and passenger carrier for the Grace Line³, she was shortly taken over by the Navy, and converted to a submarine tender. She was given extensive⁴ machine shops, foundries⁵ and storerooms to provide for the material needs of the “pig-boats”,^{6 7} cabins and living spaces for the comfort of their crews when off duty, and a few guns as a concession to the fact that she was now a man-of-war.

In 1925 the Canopus escorted a division of six “S” type submarines of the vintage of World War I⁸ to the China Station. This imposing force, before the clouds of World War II gathered on the horizon, carried a large share of the burden of showing the Stars and Stripes in Asiatic ports, much of the time in the midst of “incidents” brought on by the spread of the New Order.⁹

¹ OED: mama-san. In Japan and East Asia: (originally) a mother; (later) any woman in a position of authority, *spec.* one in charge of a geisha-house or bar.

² Philippines] Phillippines SC1

³ Passenger ship line of W.R. Grace & Co. Its first ship, the Santa Ana, was christened in 1919.

⁴ extensive] d(e)xtensive (corrected) SC1

⁵ foundries] founde(r)ies (corrected) SC1

⁶ “pig-boats”] “pib-boats” SC1

⁷ OED: pigboat, n. A submarine.

⁸ Submarines originally designed for long-range missions, rather than harbor defense or coastal patrols.

⁹ The political, cultural, racial, and economic policies that Nazi Germany sought to impose on Europe. See *The Nazi-Fascist New Order for European Culture* by Benjamin G. Martin.

Looking back, it is hard to decide just¹ when war with Japan became inevitable. Perhaps the background was laid when Japan was given control of the Mandated Islands² after World War I. To be sure, these islands, which lay across American life lines to the Philippines, were not supposed to be fortified, but the Navy, at least³, never had any illusions on that score. Throughout the service, there was a general feeling that eventually the Japanese would become open enemies, and that a treacherous blow would be the signal for opening hostilities.⁴ We in the Orient were only surprised that this blow landed first at Pearl Harbor, instead⁵ of on the Asiatic ships, which comparatively “had their necks out” whenever they visited China ports.

We now know that the Japs wanted bigger game while the advantage of surprise was still in their hands, and probably felt that they could pick off the Asiatic Fleet⁶ anyhow, at their leizure.⁷ But China sailors had been treated to a war of nerves for many years, and had been made to feel that they were living on borrowed time. In 1940 things looked so bad that their families had been sent back to the states, in spite of their vehement protests, be it said. Those Navy wives were an intrepid lot, and were accustomed to putting up with such hardships and dangers in following their men from port to port, that it took something more than a little Japanese menace to make them leave the strange fascination⁸ of the Orient voluntarily.

It had always been expected that the Canopus⁹, along with other slow auxiliary ships; the destroyer tender Black Hawk;^{10 11} the seaplane tender Langley,¹² and the tanker Pecos¹³, would,

¹ just] j st SC1

² The Caroline, Marshall, and Mariana Islands, given to the Japanese following the international Peace Conference held after the end of World War I.

³ at least] at l st SC1

⁴ .] , SC1

⁵ instead] instedd SC1

⁶ U.S. naval fleet tasked with patrolling the Philippine Islands. See *The Fleet the Gods Forgot: The U.S. Asiatic Fleet in World War II* by Walter G. Winslow.

⁷ leizure] ;eizure SC1

⁸ fascination] facination SC1

⁹ Canopus] Canapus SC1

¹⁰ auxiliary...Hawk] aix;oaru sjol/2sø the destpner temder Black Hawk SC1

¹¹ Black Hawk II (AD-9): Tender for Naval Destroyer Squadrons 5 (1922-1940) and 29 (1940-1942) in the Pacific.

¹² Langley I (CV-1): Originally christened Jupiter in 1911 and renamed Langley in 1920, the U.S. Navy's first electrically propelled ship and first aircraft carrier. Langley was converted to a seaplane tender in 1937 and joined the Asiatic Fleet at Manila in 1939.

¹³ Pecos I (AO-6): Fuel ship operating in both Atlantic and Pacific oceans during the years between the world wars. Pecos was in the Philippines supporting the Asiatic Fleet when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

if possible, be hurried out to safer spots further south when the war became imminent, on the basic assumption that the Philippines

could not be held for long. In fact, during 1941 war seemed so likely that the Fleet was held in the southern Philippines most of the time.

However, in the fall of 1941, the situation appeared to be growing¹ a little more favorable. Freed of the restrictions previously imposed by national policy, at last reinforcements were arriving in the Philippines², and it seemed that after all there might be a chance of holding the Islands. Army planes and tanks were coming in rapidly, and more submarines with their tenders had arrived. Within a few months, when these new forces had been³ organized and shaken down into their new environment, the Philippines would obviously be a much harder nut to crack. The war plan was in the process of change, based on the promise that now there was a chance of holding the Islands until the Fleet should arrive. Perhaps the Japanese⁴ realized this, and decided that it must be “now or never”. Their answer was—Pearl Harbor.⁵

¹ growing] frowing SC1

² Philippines] Pilippines SC1

³ been] b en SC1

⁴ Japanese] Jamanese SC1

⁵ On December 7, 1941, Peal Harbor, an American naval base near Honooulu, Hawaii, was attacked from the air by Japanese fighter planes, resulting in the deaths over 2,000 Americans and the wounding over 1,000 others.

Chapter II

In the fateful first week in December, the Canopus had just finished an extensive overhaul at Cavite Navy Yard¹, and emerged looking more like a war vessel than ever before. Many anti-aircraft machine guns had been added to her armament, and light armor had been fitted around exposed positions, which later proved of immense value in warding off bomb fragments.

The submarines were considered the first line of defense for the Philippines, and were expected to operate from bases as far advanced in the field as possible in order to utilize their maximum effectiveness. But submarines cannot operate long without supplies and repairs, and a surface tender² had to be available for these services, even though her eventual loss by air³ attack would be almost a foregone conclusion if she stayed within aircraft range. The Canopus was chosen for this sacrifice, probably because the other tenders were newer and faster, and thus better able to avoid damage or loss in the open sea. But also involved in the decision was no doubt the fact that the Canopus had already demonstrated her ability to care for many submarines of various types and could handle the job alone, as long as she lasted.

When the news of the treacherous blow at Pearl Harbor was flashed at 3:30 a.m. (Manila Time)⁴ on December eighth, we knew we had a job to do. There was no further sleep that night. Little knots of men were gathered all over the ship discussing the new situation. The comments heard most frequently were—"Well, this is why the Navy hired us," "Now at least we know it was best that our families were sent back to the States," but most urgent of all, "how long will it take the Big Fleet to get here?"

That the Fleet would get there in time⁵ we did not doubt then; it was only later when the full story of the loss of planes and ships at Pearl Harbor became known, that officers of the Navy familiar with strategic problems involved began to have grave misgivings.

¹ Cavite Naval Yard was located in Manila Bay, Philippines. Prior to the war, it was the only ship repair site in the western Pacific. This is where the 16th Naval District was established during WWII and where Stanley Point was located. The yard was destroyed by Japanese bombers and later used by the Japanese forces as a headquarters. Retaken in 1945, the Yard was re-commissioned and named Naval Base Cavite when it was turned over to the Philippine government after WWII.

² SC 1. "thender" Surface Tenders was the name given to ships that provided food and rations to submarines.

³ SC 1. "ari"

⁴ Manila is a bay in the Philippines that is known for being almost completely landlocked and thus a good place for military presence. Philippine time is roughly 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

⁵ SC 1: "ti e"

The first day was one of intense activity. “Strip ship”¹ was no longer a practice evolution—it was² the real thing now. The guns had been manned constantly for days, for the Asiatic Fleet³ was aware⁴ of something in the air, and was prepared. But now the gun crews felt something of the tenseness of the hunter, with his finger on the trigger⁵ when he hears a rustle in the bushes. Evidently this excitement was general because our own planes were fired upon by some of the other ships in the harbor, fortunately without damage.

No enemy planes appeared over Manila the first day, but they did strike with deadly effect at Clark airfield⁶, about sixty miles further north. There they⁷ caught on the ground nearly all the Army’s heavy bomber strength in the Philippines, already loaded with bombs which they only awaited the order from the high command to deliver on Japanese air fields in Formosa.⁸ Who can say what the future progress of the war might have been if that order had not been fatally

¹ Another way of saying clear for action, according to the ship’s instructions

² SC 1: word is blocked out

³ The fleet of ships in Manila Bay

⁴ SC 1 “awae”

⁵ SC 1: “grigger”

⁶ An airforce base in Luzon, Philippines, named after Major Harold M. Clark and formerly known as Clark Field. It covers an area of about 12 miles and is located approximately 48 miles north of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. The base was taken by the Japanese and then used as a base.

⁷ SC 2: “they...nearly all the” SC1: “tjeu caigt pm the grpimd mear;u a;; the”

⁸ Formosa, is the capital city of Argentina, but it was also the name that westerners used to refer to Taiwan during WWII.

delayed? We know what telling blows even a few Flying Fortresses¹ can deliver, and here were squadrons of them, their wings clipped before they were allowed to strike one blow for freedom! Even the protecting fighter planes,

¹ A low-wing monoplane, manufactured as model 299 by Boeing but designated by the U.S. Army as the B-17. The B-17E held nine machine guns and a 4,000 lb bomb load. Boeing trademarked the “Flying Fortress” name after a news reporter, Richard Smith—Seattle Times, dubbed the nickname on the plane. The plane hold four engines and

which had been circling the field all morning in anticipation of just such an attack, had been called in at the same time for fuel and lunch—just in time to suffer the same fate as their big sisters lined up on the field. The crowning irony of that disastrous day was the fact that the field’s radio station was hit by the first salvo¹ of bombs, preventing² them from summoning help from the fighters circling over Nichols Field³, barely thirty miles away.

It was a perfect⁴ example of the advantage an aggressor gains by his treachery—he knows what he is going to do, and how to do it—whereas a paralysis seems to grip his victim with the first numbing blows. He must improvise his plans to meet the surprise onslaught, and lose vital time and material before his plans will fit the situation, which is seldom quite what he had visualized.

At midnight of the first day another air attack on Nichols Field brought the war to a spot where we on the Canopus had a grand stand seat for the spectacle, which looked for all the world like a good old Fourth of July display.⁵ From our anchorage off Cavite, just far enough away to muffle the noise, the showers of red and yellow tracer⁶ bullets, the sparkers of anti-aircraft

¹ the release all at one time of a rack of bombs or rockets

² SC 1: “prevent ng”

³ A Filipino Army Air Corp field used by American forces during WWII, which was also called Camp Nichols. The airfield is now the location of the Manila International and Domestic Airport and has been renamed to Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base. It was renamed after the Air Force’s first Medal of Valor recipient, Colonel Jesus Villamor, the Squadron Commander of the Fighting 6th Pursuit Squadron who fought against the Japanese in WWII. Japanese forces took over the field during WWII to use it as a bomber base. It was retaken by American forces before the end of the war and returned to Philippine control after the war. Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base (Nichols Field) is located approximately five miles south of the capital city of Manila in Pasay City.

⁴ SC 1: “pervect”

⁵ SC 1: “display/ From”

⁶ Ammunition containing a chemical composition to mark the flight of projectiles by a trail of smoke or light

bursts followed by the bonfire glare of burning hangars and planes had an unreal quality which made it hard to realize that this was war, and our own countrymen were fighting and dying amidst the conflagration¹. We learned later that fifth columnists² had led the bombers unerringly to the target by bracketing the field with flares, and with the help of a brilliant moon, the raiders³ could hardly miss.

However unreal it seemed, we had no desire to become a pretty bonfire ourselves, so we got underway and steamed around the harbor all night, so as not to be caught napping in the event of an attack. It is a wonderful⁴ solace to the nerves to be doing something, no matter how ineffectual, rather than to be a sitting duck, waiting for the hunter to let fly. Unfortunately, even the poor comfort of mobility was to be denied us from that time on.

At dawn the Canopus was ordered alongside the docks in the Port Area of Manila. This was chosen for the base of operations because when and if the expected sinking occurred, the depth under our keel would be shallow enough so that the ship would rest mostly above the water, and valuable stores, torpedoes, and equipment could be salvaged. Headquarters for the submarine "Commodore⁵" (Captain John Wilkes, U. S. N.⁶), and his staff were set up nearby in the newly built Navy Enlisted Men's Club. Several Canopus officers were incorporated into this staff to build it up to wartime proportions. After all, if the ship was not expected to leave port, why waste their services?

¹ a) A disastrous fire that destroys a great deal of land or property b) a conflict or war

² a military tactic by a subversive group to undermine a nation during war.

³ a soldier specially trained for close-range fighting

⁴ SC 1: "w wonderful"

⁵ According to United States Naval ranking, the commodore has the rank above the captain and below the rear admiral. The title is usually only used during war.

⁶ Captain John Wilkes was born in Charlotte, N.C. in 1865. He graduated from the U.S. Naval academy in 1916 and later served in both WWI and WWII, where he commanded many naval ships and submarines: USS K-7, USS S-47, USS Indianapolis, USS Birmingham, USS Barracuda. He was in command of the Asiatic Fleet.

Torpedoes and spare parts were hurriedly unloaded, and lightered out to the Corregidor, where less vulnerable shops were put into operation. Other stores and provisions were divided up, and one part stowed in a small inter-island ship in the hope that¹ all would not be lost in one attack

The superstructure² of the Canopus was painted to match the color of the docks alongside, and camouflage nets spread overhead in an effort to deceive the Japs as long as possible as to our identity. The more exposed fuel tanks were emptied and filled with water to reduce the danger of a disastrous fire which might make it impossible to save the ship if the oil were touched off by a bomb. With the ship as ready as the men could make her, the grim question.

¹ SC 1: “ t”

² SC 1: “superstruct re”

as to whether the value of her services in the time left to her would be worth the expected sacrifice was all that remained to be decided.

However, the Japanese had their own schedule, and the Canopus apparently was well down on the list of objectives. The main air fields had been first, then came Cavite, with again that weird, unreal feeling, because the splashes, fire, and smoke were only too evident a few miles away, while the detonations could not be heard. It hardly seemed possible that those swarm of silver winged insects so high in the sky could be responsible for that holocaust across the bay. Now at last¹ our gunners had a chance to express their defiance by firing at the groups which passed overhead. Unfortunately, it was little more than a gesture of defiance²—for their guns were too small and ancient to have a chance of reaching the bombers at the extreme altitudes they habitually used.

There is a certain empty feeling which attacks the pit of the stomach with the realization that the order “Commence Firing” will not be the usual directive to see how much canvas and wood can be demolished in the shortest space of time, but instead, an order to blast as many human beings as possible into eternity. When the guns start barking, however, the feeling³ passes, and fierce exhilaration takes its place, entirely apart from whatever results may be achieved. A man who has been wondering during the approach of the enemy whether after all he may be a coward, and secretly speculating on a hiding place, forgets all about his fears with the first kick of his gun, and becomes for the moment a killer.

¹ SC 1: “at least”

² SC 1: “difiance”

³ SC 2: “passes...achieved” is SC 1: “pases, and may be achieved.”

Bomb damaged ships straggled out of Cavite Navy Yard following the attack, and the Canopus repair force slaved night and day getting them ready for sea, as well as equipping their regular brood of submarines for offensive patrols. Daily alarms sent the “pig-boats¹” to safety on the bottom of Manila Bay, but as soon as the marauding planes had left, the “Business as Usual” sign would be hung out again.

This sort of life did not lack for excitement, but was far from being the peace and rest which submarine crews must have to prepare them physically and mentally for the strain of their war patrols. There was every indication that conditions would get no better, and with the Army falling back on Manila, word came that the city would soon be abandoned to avoid complete destruction. Although the Canopus was still intact, the harbor could no longer be used for a submarine base. The circle of bombing attacks was drawing tighter each day, and on Christmas Eve our headquarters was hit, and spent bomb fragments landed on our decks.

During the night we got underway for what proved to be our last journey, and steamed out of the Bay toward Corregidor,² with great fires and towering columns of smoke astern of us as evidence that the Army was scorching the earth as they prepared to withdraw into Bataan.³

¹ A naval slang term for a submarine.

² Corregidor is an island at the entrance of Manila Bay in the Philippines. General MacArthur used Corregidor Island and Bataan as major defense positions. When the Philippines fell to the Japanese, Corregidor was the last place of resistance. The island was eventually taken on May 6, 1942, but only after 27 days of resistance against enemy forces.

³ A 30 mile long, 15 mile wide peninsula, in the Philippines, which leads into Bataan. During WWII, when the Japanese overtook the Philippines, the U.S. and Filipino troops pulled back into Bataan and then into Corregidor. Once finally overtaken by Japanese forces, Allied survivors were forced to march 66 miles to San Fernando and then by boxcars to Capas, where they then walked another 7 miles to Camp O'Donnell. The harsh conditions and treatment that the soldiers were subjected to caused thousands to die. In all, approximately 76,000 men were forced to march, which later became known as the Bataan Death March.

We were to set up shop again in Mariveles Bay,¹ on the southern tip of Bataan peninsula. Some of the submarines were still with us, but now we had no source from which our supplies could be replenished, and it was obvious that the best we could hope to do would be to equip this last group for war patrol, and then “turn in our suits” as far as submarines were concerned.

¹ A bay on the south side of the Bataan Peninsula which leads into Bataan

Chapter III

It was hoped that Mariveles Bay¹, being close to the guns of Corregidor², would be immune to air attacks³, although some misgivings⁴ were felt on that score when we found a bombed and burning merchant ship in the harbor,⁵ and learned that this was the result of a light hearted Japanese Christmas Eve celebration⁶. However, with high hopes,⁷ we moored⁸ the ship to the shoreline⁹ in a protected cove, and again spread our camouflage nets overhead. This time, the object was to make the ship look like part of the junglefoliage¹⁰ ashore¹¹, and we succeeded very well by using a mottled¹² green paint, with plenty of tree branches tied to the masts and upper works. Unfortunately, a rock quarry¹³ nearby had made a white gash in the cliff, and from one direction, this made a background which it was impossible to match. We could only hope the Jap¹⁴ scouting planes would not happen to snap any candid camera shots¹⁵ from that particular direction.

Disillusionment of both these hopes was not slow in coming. On December 29th¹⁶ our daily visitors, evidently deciding that Manila¹⁷ had been adequately taken care of, turned their attention toward us.¹⁸ Squadron after endless squadron showed their contempt for the guns of

¹ Mariveles Bay is a bay within Bataan, Philippines.

² Corregidor Island is located to the southeast of Mariveles Bay.

³ The defense of Corregidor was the responsibility of the Philippine Coast Artillery Command under Major General George Moore. 23 batteries were set up on Corregidor and the adjoining islands at the outbreak of World War II in 1941. These consisted of 56 coastal guns and mortars which formed the main power of the island fortress. Corregidor had 13 anti-aircraft artillery batteries with 76 guns, 28 of which were 3-inch and 48 50-caliber. With all the gun emplacements set up in the island, two of the batteries (Geary and Way) proved most effective for the defense of Corregidor during the siege by the Japanese forces.

⁴ misgivings] misgivin s SC1.

⁵ Comma omitted here in SC1.

⁶ The “o” in celebration is an “o” typed over an “n” in SC1.

⁷ Comma omitted here in SC1.

⁸ For the ship to be secured in a particular place

⁹ shoreline] shore line SC1.

¹⁰ junglefoilage] jungle foilage SC1.

¹¹ ashore] ahore SC1.

¹² Patchy, spotty, or streaky

¹³ A rock quarry is a surface excavation from which stone is taken for use in building and construction. The quarry would have created a more difficult situation for disgusting the ship.

¹⁴ A derogatory term for the Japanese.

¹⁵ camera shots] camera n shots SC1.

¹⁶ December 19th, 1941

¹⁷ Manila is northeast of Mariveles and Corregidor Island. Manila is the capital of the Philippines.

¹⁸ Comma instead of a period here in SC1.

Corregidor by blasting that island from end to end, and the last group of the day, as if by an afterthought, wheeled in from that fatally exposed direction and blanketed the Canopus with a perfectly placed patter¹ of bombs. Tied up as she was, and unable to dodge, it seemed a miracle² that only one of the closely bunched rain of missiles actually struck the ship, but that one bomb nearly ended³ our career then and there. It was an armor-piercing type which went through all the ship's decks, and exploded on top of the propeller shaft under the magazines, blowing them open, and starting fires which threatened to explode the ammunition.

Disaster and danger⁴ are the great touchstones which bring out the true quality in men, and those sailors never faltered. Hardly had the rain of rocks thrown from craters in the nearby hillside subsided when fire fighting crews had jumped to their work⁵. The Executive officer, Lt. Comdr. "Hap" Goodall⁶, organized one party on deck,⁷ which attacked the blaze⁸ from above. They found smoke pouring from ammunition scuttles leading to the magazines below, and directed their hose streams down the hatches, unmindful of ominous detonations below which told them the magazines might blow them up at any moment. Gunner's⁹ Mat¹⁰ Budzaj¹¹ even climbed down a smoke-filled ammunition trunk with a hose in an effort to get at the bottom of the blaze. When the fire pumps failed for a few minutes, bucket brigades carried on the battle.

In the meantime, below decks, Lt. Comdr. "Al" Hede¹² had organized another fire party which tackled the problem by carrying their hoses through choking smoke in the compartments near the magazines, pulling¹³ wounded and dying men away from the blasted areas where they

¹ Spelling error: means to read "pattern."

² Originally spelled meracle, the "i" is typed over the "e" in SC1.

³ ended] eneed SC1.

⁴ danger] dager SC1.

⁵ Hardly ... work] Hard;u jad tje raom pf rpcls tjrpwm frp, craters om tje mearbu jo;;sode sibsoded wjem fore fogjtomg crews jad ki, 1/2ed tp tjeor wprl/ SC1.

⁶ Harold (Harry) W. Goodall.

⁷ Comma omitted in SC1.

⁸ blaze] balze SC1.

⁹ Gunner's] Hunner's SC1.

¹⁰ Mat] Mate SC1.

¹¹ A gunner's mate (GM) in the U.S. Navy repairs rifles, pistols, and machine guns. Gunner's mates are responsible for small arms weaponry as well as the large guns aboard the ship, including guided missile launch systems.

¹² Adolph "Al" Hede was born on November 26, 1903. Hede served on the USS Canopus from 1941-1942. His last rank was commander before he was a prisoner of war from 1942-1944 and died on December 15, 1944, killed on the Hellship Oryoku Maru in Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Gold Star, Purple Heart, and Prisoner of War Medal.

¹³ Originally read "pupping" but the double p's have been typed over with l's in SC1.

had fallen. Most of the oxygen type breathing apparatus had been cut off by the explosion, but Shipfitter Cambron¹ donned the² one remaining outfit, and carried the hose right down to the magazines, backed up by his shipmates working in relays, each of which stayed as long as men could stand the fumes.

Our fighting Chaplain McManus³ led a rescue group into the engine room⁴

¹ John Nelson Cambron was born on January 9, 1910 in Miles City, Montana. Cambron, Shipfitter First Class, died on May 6, 1942. He was killed fighting ashore after the Canopus was scuttled in the Philippine Islands. He is memorialized at the Walls of the Missing in the Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City, Philippines and received the Silver Star and Purple Heart decorations.

² the] yhe SC1.

³ Francis Joseph McManus was born January 18, 1905. He was the lieutenant of Chaplin Corps and died January 25, 1945 aboard Hellship Brazil Maru bound for Japan as a prisoner of war. He was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Prisoner of War Medal. McManus, as described in the text, disregarded his own safety and entered the smoke and steam filled engine room and assisted in removing the wounded and administered the last rites to the dying. His courageous actions were beyond the call of duty and kept with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

⁴ Has a comma here in SC1.

where fragments and escaping steam had caused the most casualties, administering last rites to dying men and helping to evacuate the injured to makeshift dressing stations¹.

The officers in charge of the engine² room, Machinist Hutchinson³ and Electrician Hall⁴, had both been badly wounded by the first blast, but the Chief Machinist's Mate left in charge shut off the steam at the boilers until severed steam pipes could be isolated, thus saving more of his men from being scalded to death. He then helped the wounded to safety, and was later found wandering around dazed, having no recollection of what happened after the blast!

Four hours the devoted crew fought before all fires were finally out. When the magazines were examined, several crushed⁵ and exploded powder⁶ charges were found, mute evidence⁷ showing how close to complete destruction the ship and all on board had been. Nothing less than a miracle could have prevented a general magazine explosion at the time the bomb set off those powder charges, but miracles do happen. The engine of destruction had carried it's⁸ own antidote, and it's fragments which severed pipes near the magazines had released floods of steam and water at the danger point, automatically keeping fire away from the rest of the powder. Our numbers just weren't quite up that day.

In months to follow, our crew could never quite believe, until the battered hull finally slipped to its last rest beneath the waves, that somehow the old girl would not manage to pull through, as she had that day, and take them all out to rejoin the Fleet. That⁹ same night, up went the "Business as Usual" sign, and repair men went to work binding up the old lady's wounds, at the same time others were busy servicing submarines.

¹ "dressing stations" is repeated twice on individual lines in SC1.

² engine] enjine SC1.

³ Edward Jennings Hutchinson, Jr. was born on June 2, 1922. Hutchinson was ranked Coxswain, which is the person in charge of the boat's navigation and steering. He died on January 23, 1943 at the Umeda Prisoner of War Camp in Japan. He was decorated with the Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal.

⁴ Alton Henry Hall was born on August 26, 1914. Hall was ranked Electrician's Mate, First Class. He died on November 19, 1944 at the Prisoner of War Camp Sakura in the Philippines of beriberi and starvation. Beriberi is a disease caused by a vitamin B-1 deficiency which causes heart failure.

⁵ crushed] crused SC1.

⁶ powder] pwoder SC1.

⁷ evidence] evidence SC1.

⁸ it's] it(s) SC1.

⁹ That] The SC1.

Chapter IV

The Canopus was seaworthy again in a few days, although much ammunition had been lost by flooding the magazines, and several store rooms were badly messed up by the explosion.¹ This cloud, however, had a silver lining for our Supply Officer, Lieutenant “Gus” Johnson,² who found his office wrecked and his accounts burned, giving him a heaven-sent chance to put an end to all his laborious accounting³ system for the duration. From that time on, our supply system was beautifully simple. What we had, we could use without the usual red tape, and if something was lacking, nothing could be done about it except to improvise a substitute or do without. There was nothing for the men to spend their money on, so there were no more pay days. Ice cream and canteen supplies⁴ were free as long as they lasted. All clothing became community property, to be doled out to whatever unfortunate should appear in the most nearly naked condition. This Utopian state inevitably led to much closer relations among the crew and officers, and welded us all into a great family, working and fighting in a common cause, with only one aim--to do our damndest to lick the Japs.⁵

Curiously enough, the boys who had been the worst troublemakers in time⁶ of peace became our most shining lights in wartime. Perhaps they had just too much restless energy for their own good when things were normal, but this same quality enabled them to perform prodigies when the chips were down.

Ordinary methods of discipline of course failed, since the men got no liberty or pay anyhow, and what normally would be extra duty was now only the usual stint for everyone. But punishments were fortunately unnecessary,⁷ as the spirit of the community would tolerate⁸ no shirkers, and the men themselves saw to it that no one was derelict in his duty.

¹ This attack took place on 29 December 1941 (Winslow).

² The “Canopus Roster” lists the only Lieutenant with the last name Johnson as being Willard C. Johnson.

³ accounting] a counting SC1.

⁴ and canteen supplies] and other canteen supplies SC1.

⁵ OED: Japs (N). offensive, informal, short for Japanese.

⁶ time] ti e SC1.

⁷ the usual...unnecessary] *omit* SC1.

⁸ tolerate] tolera e SC1.

When the¹ last of the submarines, carrying the Commodore² and his staff to a new southern base,³ had pulled out just⁴ before the New Year opened, we were left with something of the feeling of a mother when the last of her children has grown up and left the home fires, to battle the world alone. Nothing would seem more useless than a submarine tender with no submarines to look out for, but we were soon to find that there were orphans aplenty to be adopted. There were many small Navy ships which were also stranded by the tide of war ebbing toward the south. These needed constant⁵ repairs as well as additional equipment for the task ahead of them. The word⁶ also got around to all Army and Air Force Units, of the well equipped shops which could and did accomplish miracles of improvisation, and these groups⁷ were not slow in making full use of all facilities.⁸ Again the men of the Canopus could feel that they had a major share in the new mission--to hold Bataan.⁹

Tojo's¹⁰ war birds,¹¹ however, still wanted to have something to say as to whether the Canopus would stay in service. Our first bombing had made it apparent that the ship was not exactly a safe spot to while away the daylight hours, so the policy was adopted¹² of scattering as many of the crew as possible ashore, to sleep as best they could during the day, and return on board for work all night. Volunteers were called for to man the anti-aircraft guns during the danger period, with such response that practically no changes resulted in the regular gun crews. With the Gunnery Officer, Lieutenant "Red" Otter¹³ in

¹ the] t he SC1.

² Likely a reference to Captain John Wilkes (later promoted to Rear Admiral) who commanded the Asiatic Fleet submarines at the time of this account. He escaped Corregidor aboard the submarine, USS Swordfish ("Vice Admiral John Wilkes").

³ The submarines leave Manila Bay and head for new bases in the Netherlands East Indies (Winslow).

⁴ just] j st SC1.

⁵ constant] c nstant SC1.

⁶ word] work SC1.

⁷ groups] gr ups SC1.

⁸ all facilities. Again the men] all facilities. Again the men of the Canopus could and did accomplish miracles of improvisation, and these groups were not slow in making full use of all facilities. Again the men SC1.

⁹ The extended Battle of Bataan would be a defeat for the U.S. forces that were "attempting to withstand the Japanese invasion of the Philippines." General Douglas MacArthur ordered the removal of U.S. troops from the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island on December 24, 1942 ("Batann, Battle of").

¹⁰ Hideki Tojo was the Prime Minister and Army Minister of Japan throughout World War II ("Tojo Hideki, General").

¹¹ "Tojo's war birds" is referencing General Tojo's air fleet.

¹² Adopted] dopted SC1.

¹³ Lieutenant Bethel Veech Otter of Louisville, Kentucky ("Otter, Bethel Veech").

control, these enthusiastic boys felt that they were the lucky ones--there was always the chance that some Jap plane might venture low enough to be knocked out of the sky, and such vengeance would be sweet enough to justify any risks.

Just a week after the first bombing, the Japs showed their annoyance at such temerity by sending another squadron of planes over the Canopus to try and settle the affair once and for all.¹

Again the closely bunched bomb pattern blanketed the ship, but again only one missile made a direct hit. This time it was a quick-acting fragmentation bomb which struck the side of the towering smokestack, and literally sprayed the upper decks with small fragments. The gun crews, which had ducked behind their shields at the last instant before the bombs landed, had little protection from splinters coming down from above, and three-quarters of them were wounded--fortunately with no fatalities. No serious fires were started, but the upper decks looked like a sieve as hundreds of fragments had pierced the light plating.

Stretcher parties from ashore boarded the ship almost before the dust had settled, and carried the fifteen wounded men to dressing stations ashore,² but the hardest part of the task was to convince each victim that someone else should not get attention³ first. One of the highlights of the scene was the sight of "Red" Otter dashing to the bridge, bleeding from half a dozen gashes, to make certain his skipper⁴ was all right, then dashing back to direct evacuation of the other wounded men before he would allow his wounds to be dressed. What "softies" our decadent democracy produces!⁵

The damage due to the one direct hit had been only superficial, but inspection below decks disclosed that several near misses had also taken their toll. Each side had been pierced a few feet above the water line by forty or fifty fragments of bombs exploded by contact with the water alongside. Another bomb had exploded deeper under water and dished in the hull two or three inches, cracking the plating and loosening rivets which were leaking steadily. These were the wounds which had to be bound up to make the vessel again seaworthy, and the welders were soon on the job plugging the openings.

¹ This attack took place on 5 January 1942 (Winslow).

² ashore] ashore SC1.

³ attention] attention SC1.

⁴ Captain E.L. Sackett is "[Otter's] skipper."

⁵ Captain Sackett seems to be referencing the Japanese belief that "they would win because Americans were soft, they themselves being battle-hardened samurai eager to die for Hirohito" (O'Neill 127).

The tough old girl was not ready for her grave yet, but if she were to continue a career of usefulness, it seemed best to make the Japs think the last salvo of bombs had done the trick. It was useless to pretend anylonger that we weren't there, but at least we could make them think that what was left was useless. The next morning, when "Photo Joe"¹ in his scouting plane came over, his pictures showed what looked like an abandoned hulk, listed over on her side, with cargo bombs² askew, and large blackened areas around the bomb holes, from which wisps of smoke floated up for two or three days. What he did not know was that the smoke came from oily rags³ in strategically placed smudge pots,⁴ and that every night the "abandoned hulk" hummed with activity, forging new weapons for the beleaguered forces of Bataan.⁵ Evidently the Japs were completely deceived, because only one half-hearted attempt was made a week later by dive bombers to finish off the faithful ship, and that was driven away without damage, by our anti-aircraft machine guns.⁶ These had been taken off the ship and mounted⁷ on the hills nearby, so as not to draw further retaliation to the vessel.

¹ "Photo Joe" was "a Japanese plane that made daily reconnaissance" (Winslow).

² bombs] bomms SC1.

³ rags] rages SC1.

⁴ OED: smudge pot (N). designated containers for smoldering fire; a heap of combustibles ignited and emitting dense smoke.

⁵ Bataan] Batann SC1.

⁶ The anti-aircraft machine guns were .50 caliber weapons (Winslow).

⁷ mounted] mounted SC1.

Two of the larger anti-aircraft guns had been damaged by the second bombing, and ammunition for those remaining was almost gone. This battery was therefore dismantled¹ to provide needed parts for similar guns which a company² of Marines had mounted ashore at the head of Mariveles Bay,³ and which could⁴ be better protected.

¹ dismantled] dismatled SC1.

² company] co pany SC1.

³ Mariveles Bay is the location where the USS *Canopus* was moored when much of this chapter of the account took place (Winslow).

⁴ could] ould SC1.

Chapter V

Japanese warships were reported to be infesting the waters around the Philippines, and the Naval Command had decided that no slow auxiliary vessel¹ would have a chance for success in a dash for safer waters. Perhaps there was still a hope for relief to reach the Philippines, in which case the probable heavy loss of life in an attempt to break through would not be justified. The men, in no uncertain terms, expressed their preference² for taking any chances at sea, rather than being bottled up, with a land siege in prospect. But orders were orders, and since those in authority did not see fit to assign any great weight to our feelings in the matter, there remained nothing but to make the best of a bad situation and settle down to help make it a good siege while it lasted.¹

Some sort of protected living quarters ashore³ were a necessity if the night workers were to get any rest. This problem was partly solved by taking over a large storage tunnel just completed, and building⁴ in bunks, office space, hospital accommodations⁵, a radio and telephone communication⁶ center, and makeshift field kitchens for cooking our two meals a day. More than a hundred of the men not having repair duties lived underground there with reasonable comfort, at least after the water dripping from bare rocks overhead had been trapped and piped to a shower tray, so that baths might at least be voluntary.⁷

Many of the repair force slept during the day in this shelter, but most of them scorned the dank air, and preferred to take their chances in the wide open spaces in the nearby hills, where they learned to sleep under the shade of tropical trees, leaving a lookout to warn them in time to roll into a foxhole whenever a bomber looked threatening.

¹ Auxiliary vessels for the U.S. Navy during World War II, were vessels designated to provide support to primary war vessels such as submarines, destroyers and carriers. The Canopus was a Submarine Tender joining the ranks of other auxiliary vessels such as Ammunition ship, aircraft tenders, gasoline tankers, repair ships, hospital ships, and numerous others. These auxiliary vessels provided supplies and maintained for primary vessels. (U.S. Navy)

² SC1 "Preference"

³ SC1 "shore"

⁴ SC1 "ilding"

⁵ SC1 "accompodations"

⁶ SC1 "eurmonication"

⁷ The underground shelter refers to the Malinta Tunnel on Corregidor. This tunnel was part of a system of tunnels that would serve as the command post for U.S. and Philippine forces before the fall of Corregidor In May of 1942.(Corregidor)

By no means all of our men were in the night-owl group. Machine guns on every hilltop were manned by alert sailors with itchy trigger fingers, just living for the day when one of the dirty yellow so-and-sos¹ would venture low enough to give them one good crack at him. This didn't happen often, but those that did forget themselves must have thought they had stirred up a hornet's nest, and not all of them lived to tell the tale.

Another watchful group took station under the shelter of the quarry's crushed rock storage tanks, where they were near enough to make a dash to their beloved ship in case she were hit again, to do what they could to save her.

Finally, there were the lookouts and signal stations on the hilltops, with telephone wires reaching throughout the whole system to spot marauding planes while still far away, and warn their shipmates of impending danger. These men, with little protection for themselves, kept their binoculars coolly trained on the bombers, describing the picture to more sheltered friends. Few will ever forget those quiet voices over the earphones, "They are heading directly over us--their bomb-bay doors are open-- don't believe² they dropped bombs this time--no, here they come-- looks as if they will hit beyond us"-- (more words drowned out by shattering roar)-- then, "lousy shooting, missed

¹ Derogatory term used to describe Japanese People during World War II.

² Misspelled in SC1, this is spelled correctly in SC2 "Believe"

us a quarter-mile-- must have had their third term in there.”

Anyone who has stood in the open when those deadly missiles are rushing down toward him, and has heard the ominous hiss which announces their near approach, will appreciate the iron control of a man who can keep up a blow-by-blow account when his next breath may be his last.

Chapter VI

Mariveles¹ harbor² seemed to be well defended against surprise attack by the Naval forces clustered around it and the Army had stabilized a front³ about twenty miles further north, on the other side of Mariveles mountain⁴ -- but what about the seacoast between? Most of it was very rugged, and backed up by thick jungle, but the one road which provided the only line of communication⁵ to the front lines⁶ passed quite close to the sea at many points. Commander Francis Bridget, who had been left in charge of the remnants of Naval aviation in the Philippines, did not think they this tenuous life line was adequately defended by the Army against a sudden landing on the coast.

Frank⁷ was never one to sit back and criticize when action was needed. He had under his own command about a hundred and fifty aviation man, mostly ground crews,⁸ who had been left without work when their planes were destroyed. He sold the proposition⁹ to other Naval organizations in Bataan,¹⁰ and collected a hundred and thirty men¹¹ from the Canopus, about eighty from the Ammunition Depot detail,¹² a hundred or so Marines, and a few refugees from the ill-fated¹³ Cavite Navy Yard¹⁴. These heterogeneous groups¹⁵ Bridget formed into the “Naval Battalion”¹⁶, with “Hap” Goodall¹⁷, of the Canopus, as second in command. Tom Bowers¹⁸ of

¹ Mariveles] Marivels SC1.

² Mariveles Harbor is a harbor in Mariveles Bay about 3 miles southeast of Longoskawan Point. See “Mariveles Harbor” for a map of the area.

³ The term “front” is an abbreviated form of “battlefront,” which refers to a contested area over which opposing military forces battle to obtain control during warfare.

⁴ Mariveles Mountain is a mountain about 2 miles north of Mariveles in Bataan on the Philippine island of Luzon. See “Mount Mariveles” for a map of the area.

⁵ The term “line of communication” refers to a route by which a military unit receives information and provisions during warfare.

⁶ The term “front lines” refers to the area in closest proximity to the central military conflict during warfare.

⁷ Frank is a nickname for Francis.

⁸ The term “ground crew” refers to a unit of military personnel that provides technical and mechanical support to aircraft and aviators when grounded.

⁹ The phrase “to sell a proposition” means “to convince.”

¹⁰ Bataan is a province located on the peninsula of the Philippine island of Luzon. See “Bataan” for a map of the area.

¹¹ from the Canopus...or so Marines] *omit* SC1.

¹² The Ammunition Depot refers to the designated area in Cavite Navy Yard where ammunition is warehoused.

¹³ and a few...Cavite Navy Yard] *aromes. amd a few refugees frp, the ojj-fated* SC1.

¹⁴ Cavite Navy Yard is a naval shipyard located about 8 miles southwest of Manila and 10 miles northeast of Corregidor. See “Cavite Naval Shipyard” for map of the area.

¹⁵ heterogeneous groups] *heterogenous grops* SC1.

¹⁶ The term “battalion” refers to a military unit of 300 to 800 soldiers.

¹⁷ Henry William Goodall held the title of Lieutenant Commander. See “Henry” for more information.

¹⁸ Thomas Kent Bowers held the title of Lieutenant Commander. See “Thomas” for more information.

the Ammunition¹ detail and a few Marine and aviation officers² were the company³ commanders.

Equipment was a serious problem. The Marines were, of course, ready for field duty,⁴ but the others were sailors, and the Navy doesn't provide much equipment for land operations at the best, to say nothing of the fact that several of these groups had been separated from their normal supplies by unforeseen circumstances. However, rifles and ammunition of some sort were finally begged, borrowed or stolen⁵ for most of the men⁶. Their white uniforms were dyed to what was supposed to khaki color,⁷ but which turned out to be a sickly mustard yellow. Only about one canteen could be found for every three men, but the great American tin can was pressed into service to make up for the deficiency.⁸ This had the advantage that the contents could be heated over a fire in case of need, provided care was exercised not to melt out the solder.

Training was next essential. Perhaps two-thirds⁹ of the sailors knew which end of the rifle should be presented to the enemy, and had even practiced on a target range, but field training¹⁰ was practically a closed book to them.¹¹ The experienced Marines were spread thinly throughout each company, in the hope that through precept and example, their qualities would be assimilated by the rest.

Thus equipped, mostly with boundless enthusiasm and determination, the motley array sallied forth¹² one day late in January for a preliminary hike to the coast to harden them up¹³. At the base of Mt. Pucot¹⁴ near the sea they met an agitated group¹⁵ of soldiers who had just been

¹ Ammunition] Ammuniton SC1.

² The term "aviation officer" refers to a member of a ground crew who specializes in mechanics, meteorology, navigation, and safety.

³ The term "company" refers to a military unit of 80–150 soldiers.

⁴ The term "field duty" refers to military operations conducted against an enemy.

⁵ The phrase "to beg, borrow, or steal" is an idiom meaning "to obtain by any means."

⁶ most of the men] o the men SC1.

⁷ Marine uniforms are khaki-colored, whereas Navy uniforms are white.

⁸ During WWII, there was a shortage of provisions for military servicemen due to a scarcity of natural resources, such as metal and rubber, which resulted from the increased manufacture of weapons and artillery.

⁹ Two-thirds] two-thrides SC1.

¹⁰ The term "field training" refers to activities and instruction conducted in preparation for field duty.

¹¹ The phrase "to be a closed book" means "to be completely unfamiliar."

¹² The phrase "to sally forth" means "to go forward."

¹³ The phrase "to harden up" means "to make resilient."

¹⁴ Mount Pucot is a mountain located about two miles south of Mariveles in Bataan on the Philippine island of Luzon. See "Mount Pucot" for a map of the area.

¹⁵ group] brop SC1.

chased by Japs¹ from their signal station² on the mountain top. Apparently a landing³ had been made on nearby Longoskawan⁴ Point⁵ the night before, just as Bridget feared⁶, and the invaders were working their way inland toward the vital communication road⁷.

Here was “field training”⁸ with a vengeance for our⁹ budding infantrymen.¹⁰

¹ The term “Japs” is a racial slur that refers a person of Japanese descent.

² The term “signal station” refers to an edifice from which specialized personnel manage vital intelligence for military operations.

³ The term “landing” refers to the act wherein an aircraft or a watercraft is grounded.

⁴ Longoskawan Point] Longosk- Point SC1.

⁵ Longoskawan Point is a narrow strip of land that projects into the South China Sea on the tip of the Bataan Peninsula, about a mile south of Mt. Pucot. See Lukacs “Battle of the Points” for a map of the area.

⁶ feared] feaed SC1.

⁷ The term “communication road” is a synonym for “line of communication.”

⁸ field] fiedd SC1.

⁹ for our budding] for budding SC1.

¹⁰ The term “infantrymen” refers to military soldiers who engage in combat on foot.

Figuratively thumbing their manuals¹, they hastily deployed in accordance with the best traditions of the book, and² advanced in line of skirmishers.³ Contact was established as might be expected, and the maneuver described as “The Assault”⁴ in the next chapter, drove in the advance patrols⁵ of the surprised Nipponese.⁶

The strength of the main forces next encountered convinced our boys⁷ that they had a “bear by the tail”,⁸ and since the book failed to provide the proper procedure in such a contingency, they threw it away. Five days of what was probably the weirdest jungle fighting in the⁹ annals of warfare ensued, with all accepted principles violated, and no holds barred.¹⁰ Adjacent unites were unable to maintain contact with each other during the night, so, of course, the Japs took advantage of their famous infiltration tactics.¹¹ However, this did not have the expected results, because our boys, not having been indoctrinated into the ancient Army principle that it is fatal to be outflanked¹², simply held their ground and sent back detachments¹³ to clear out the annoying intruders behind their lines.

Another essential item which had somehow been overlooked in the plans was the service of supply. In the excitement, nobody thought much about that until nature began to assert itself as night came on, and the boys began to get hungry and tired. A hurry call¹⁴ was sent back to the

¹The term “manuals” is an allusion to the Law of War Manual issued by the Department of Defense, which contains military doctrine regarding acceptable conduct and tactics for military operations during warfare.

² of the book, and advanced] of the book and advanced SC1.

³ The term “line of skirmishers” refers to a military tactic wherein infantrymen are positioned in an irregular open formation that provides more mobility than the traditional line formation.

⁴ “The Assault” refers to “Hap” Goodall’s clearing of Japanese who had retreated into the caves along the cliffs that line the sea coast after the battle at Longoskawan Point using gunfire from modified motor launches. For more details on “The Assault”, see Chapter 7, page 16.

⁵ The term “advance patrols” refers to a detached military unit which precedes a main unit to ensure the successful advance of the main unit.

⁶ The term “Nipponese” is a racial slur that refers to a person of Japanese descent.

⁷ The phrase “our boys” is an idiom that refers to military servicemen; it is also used in reference to law enforcement officers.

⁸ The phrase “to have a bear by the tail” is an idiom meaning “to have more than one can manage.”

⁹ in the] inthe SC1.

¹⁰ The phrase “no holds barred” means “without ethical restriction.”

¹¹ During WWII, the Japanese became known for conducting night operations wherein they would stealthily attack unsuspecting enemies. For more information on Japanese infiltration tactics, see “

¹² The term “outflanked” refers to the tactic of flanking, wherein a military unit overwhelms enemy forces by attacking from the sides and rear; to be “outflanked” is to be outnumbered by enemy forces on all sides and is considered to be an fatally disadvantaged position.

¹³ The term “detachment” refers to a military unit that has been removed from a main unit.

¹⁴ The term “hurry call” refers to a message transmitted from one military unit to another in order to convey an urgent need for assistance.

Canopus to “send plenty of everything,” and trucks were rushed to the new front with food, ammunition, blankets, and stretchers for the wounded. For days, all other work was dropped, and all hands were pressed to the service to make sure the fighting men lacked nothing that would help.

The Jap landing party was made up of picked men,¹ larger and stronger than the average, and well equipped for jungle fighting. Had they made a determined assault, they could undoubtedly have wiped out completely our whole ragged battalion. But they knew the business of war, and were sure our front lines must be backed up by powerful reserves² somewhere. If they could only find out where these reserves were located, they would know where best to make their drive. The big push was held up while their scouts³ frantically searched for the elusive reserve forces. How could they guess that the crazy Americans were so ignorant of the art of war as to blithely ignore the necessity for reserves? Sixty more Marines with trench mortars⁴ were brought over from Corregidor⁵ to counteract⁶ the advantage⁷ the Japs had enjoyed with similar weapons, but they were also used in the front lines and could hardly be called reserves.

A diary later found on the body of a Japanese officer⁸ testified to their complete bewilderment, describing the strange conduct of the “new type of suicide squads⁹, which thrashed¹⁰ about in the jungle, wearing bright colored uniforms,¹¹ and making plenty of noise.

¹ The term “picked men” means “meticulously-selected elite individuals.”

² The term “reserves” refers to a military unit that is detached from the main unit to provide additional combat support if needed.

³ The term “scout” refers to a member of an advanced patrol designated to warn the main unit of potential threats to its advancement.

⁴ The term “trench mortar” refers to a 60 mm portable short-range versions of the mortar, especially designed for trench warfare; a mortar is a short-barreled, muzzle-loading artillery weapon that launches large explosive shells at low velocities. For more information on trench mortars, see Ney.

⁵ Corregidor is a Philippine island located about 10 miles southeast of Mariveles and 30 miles southwest of Manila in Bataan on the Philippine island of Luzon. See “Corregidor Island” for a map of the area.

⁶ counteract] eooj teract SC1.

⁷ the advantage the Japs] the advantage of the Japs SC1.

⁸ During WWII, it was a common practice for soldiers to maintain personal diaries that documented their experiences during the war.

⁹ The term “suicide squad” refers to a military unit of 8-14 soldiers who are designated to complete expectedly fatal operations; suicide squads were commonly used in Japanese military tactics, such as the infamous kamikaze pilots. In this instance, the term is used satirically to criticize the recklessness of the soldiers in their attempt to camouflage.

¹⁰ thrashed] trashed SC1.

¹¹ The phrase “brightly colored uniforms” refers to the yellow color of the uniforms which were unsuccessfully dyed from white to khaki.

Whenever these apparitions reached an open space, they would attempt to draw Japanese fire by sitting down, talking loudly, and lighting cigarettes.”¹

Bataan may well have been saved from a premature fall by the reckless bravado of those sailors, because if the Japs had succeeded in cutting supplies to the western Army front,² a general retreat from those prepared positions might have been necessary. The lives lost in that timely effort could hardly have been sacrificed³ in a better cause.

¹ cigarettes] cigaretts SC1.

² The “Western Army front” refers to the “front about twenty miles further north, on the other side of Mariveles mountain.”

³ sacrificed] sacriviced SC1.

On the fifth day, the 57th regiment of Filipino Scouts¹ arrived to relieve the Naval Battalion. These scouts were the cream of the crop, having served under American officers as part of the regular Army ever since the Philippines were taken over. The Scouts were intensely proud of their service, and high indeed were the qualifications of any Filipino who could pass their entrance requirements. The Scouts could, and did, outdo the best of the Japs in jungle fighting. The officers swore that their men could smell a Jap sniper in the trees, and cited numerous cases where Scouts stalking through pitch-dark jungles at night would suddenly fire a shot upward into the trees, bringing down a sniper. Any Scout who used more than a single shot to bring down his enemy had to face caustic comments by his mates.

You may be sure that each tired sailor, when he felt a tap on his shoulder, and the welcome words "I'll take over now, Joe"² before his Scout relief melted silently into the jungle, knew that his job was in competent hands, and the battles as good as won. After three days of the deadly marksmanship of the scouts, and the shattering blasts of huge mortar shells thrown into their main positions by Corregidor's guns, the battered and disorganized remnants of the powerful landing force had all been pushed over the cliffs which lined the³ seacoast, leaving hundreds of dead behind.

¹ The 57th Regiment of Filipino Scouts was one of the four original Philippine Scout Infantry Regiments that were established as part of the Regular Army after 1917. The Philippine Scout Regiments were Filipino men who spoke several Filipino dialects and possessed a strong familiarity with the Philippine terrain; they were specially trained in marksmanship at West Point and the United States Naval Academy. The Philippine Scout Regiments were key in the success of the United States in the Philippines. See Manguso for more information.

² The term "Joe," is an abbreviation of G.I. Joe, which is a nickname for United States soldiers during WWII.

³ powerful...which lined the] *omit* SC1.

CHAPTER VII

The Jap¹ landing force was down, but not yet out. The rugged² cliffs under which the remnants had taken refuge, were honeycombed with crevices and caves washed into the rock by wave action in ages past. Practically inaccessible from the land side, it was suicide to try to ferret out the desperate yellow men, who still had plenty of ammunition and food to stand a long siege.

Bridget's³ men had been relieved of the land fighting, but they had not lost interest in the course of events. Attacking the problem from a sailor's viewpoint, they conceived a plan for cleaning out the hornet's nests by shooting into them from the sea. Here again the CANOPUS⁴ repair men rose to the occasion. Conversion work was started on three of her forty-foot motor launches, to make them into "Mickey-Mouse Battleships"⁵, armed with heavy machine guns and a light field piece, and protected by boiler plate around the engine and gun positions. No sooner had the first experimental model been finished, than an enthusiastic crew led by "Hap" Goodall⁶, which had been waiting impatiently for another crack at the "Nips"⁷, put their brain child into commission and started out. It was a seven or eight mile cruise by water to Longoskawan Point⁸, but they made two round trips the first day, blasting scores of Japs out of their caves with gunfire. As evidence of their success, they brought in two prisoners alive but dazed, and three others which had not survived the return voyage.

¹ "Jap" is short for "Japanese," holds a negative and informal connotation

² "fugged" SC1

³ Lieutenant Commander Francis Joseph Bridget, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, 1921, 2nd in command to "Hap" Goodall of the Canopus during "Battle of the Points," captured by the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor on 6 May 1942 and held POW until he was killed 15 Dec. 1944 ("Hall of Valor")

⁴ Ship launched in 1919 by New York Shipbuilding Co., provided key repair resources to troops on Bataan and naval units in Manila Bay during WWII, 10 Apr. scuttled and sunk to deny her use to the enemy, received one battle star for service in World War II ("Canopus")

⁵ In war time the term referred to bomb dropping mechanisms, can also mean pieced together quickly, probably referencing Goodall's pieced together fleet of two armored boats and two motor-whale boats (Bales 42)] "Mickey-Mouse Battleships" SC1

⁶ Lieutenant Commander Henry William Goodall, Executive Officer of the USS Canopus, in action during the "Battle of the Points," Bataan, Philippine islands (Home of Heroes)

⁷ Racial slur for the Japanese, shortened from the former term for Japanese, Nippoense

⁸ U.S. Navy battalion took the lead in action at this Point during the "Battle of the Points, 3,000 yards southwest of Mariveles on the Bataan and closest Point to Corregidor Island, other points included Quinauen Point and Anyasan Point (Lukacs 52)

The second midget man-of-war¹ was completed on the next day, and both crafts steamed out for further glory. However, this time the hunting was not so good, and only four more Japs could be found to be sent after their ancestors, although all the area was thoroughly combed.

Our Canopus crew at last felt amply revenged for the loss of the seven shipmates who fell during the land fighting, as well as for the six who died in the first bombing of the ship. They were now veterans, and could look any man in the eye.

There was soon more work for our miniature war craft, however. Just after Longoskawan Point had been cleared, another landing had been made on Quinauen Point², several miles further north. This landing had not been made without opposition, since Bulkeley's mosquito craft³ had attacked the landing barges and the war vessels guarding them, while the Army's few remaining P-40 fighters bombed and strafed everything in sight. Thirteen loaded barges were reported sunk, and a large destroyer hit by one of Bulkeley's torpedoes, but many of the Jap troops got ashore, and there was more work for the Scouts⁴. This time a whole week was required to push the Japs over the cliffs, as persistent efforts were made to reinforce their beach-head, supplies even being dropped by a parachute during the battle. However, the Scouts, reinforced by light artillery, were not to be denied, and at the last, our sea-borne cleanup squad was again called in to disinfect the caves of Quinauen Point.

"Hap" Goodall and his raiders did a thorough job, with thirty three victims counted when the last Japs were laid out for inspection. But this time, the little expedition was not so lucky as to get off unscathed. Four Japanese dive bombers, probably in bleated response to a frantic radio call for help

¹ "Man-of-War" is a ship armed with a cannon and propelled primarily by sails as opposed to a galley, probably referencing the miniature gun boats sent out by the Canopus (Merriam-Webster)

² Point on the Bataan just outside of Agloloma, next to Anyasan Point, both about 10-15 mi. North of Longoskawan Point (Lukacs 53)

³ Lieutenant Commander John Duncan Bulkeley's Torpedo Boat Squadron Three, he assumed command over Squadron Aug. 1941, Bulkeley was later promoted to Rear Admiral after being identified with the break-through of the Japanese lines for transportation of General Douglas MacArthur and his Staff from Corregidor and Bataan where the General was flown to Australia to assume overall command of the Armed Forces in the Pacific ("John Duncan Bulkeley")

⁴ 57th regiment of Filipino Scouts, originally organized by congress to be an elite force as a part of the U.S. Army, relieved Naval Battalion on fifth day of the Bridget's assault during the "Battle of the Points," played a vital role against the defense of Corregidor on Apr. 9, 1942 (Gordon 70)

dived out of the sun on the boats returning from their deadly work. One was shot down by Gunner's Mate Kramb¹, who died at his machine gun while pouring bullets into the attacking plane, but a salvo of bombs crashed all around the leading boat, blowing a hole in its bottom. Goodall was badly wounded in both feet, but ordered the beaching of the little boats to save the lives of the men still unhurt.

Three men had been killed, and four others wounded by the attack, but the survivors improvised crude stretchers for the wounded men, and laboriously cut their way through the jungle to the road. There a friendly truck driver gave them a lift back to the Canopus and medical care.

The Naval Battalion had served its purpose, and their work in Bataan² was done. Light naval guns were now being mounted along the coast, and machine gun nests established by the Army in order to make further landing attempts by the Japs extremely difficult. However, the beaches of Corregidor³ and the other fortified islands were long, vulnerable, and only lightly guarded. There were indications that the Jap forces near Manilla⁴ were preparing for landing operations, so the Naval Battalion soon left us to join the 4th Marines Regiment⁵ defending those beaches. Goodall being out of action for the duration, our Engineer Officer, Lieutenant Welch⁶, stepped into his place.

The Canopus contingent was officially detached and incorporated into the Fourth Marines Regiment, but left behind them horrible threats⁷ describing what they would do if the Canopus should try to leave without them. They swore that the big guns they were about to man would be kept trained constantly on the channel leading out of the harbor, ready to blow the Canopus out of the water at the first sign of a treacherous attempt to abandon them.

¹ Charles Herman Kramb Jr., Gunner's Mate Third Class, served as gunner on one of the boats during the "Battle of the Points," drove off two dive-bombing attacks with a machine gun, died when three bombs fell alongside his boat during third dive-bombing attempt (Home of Heroes)

² The Bataan Peninsula, Philippines, the last barrier to the successful completion of Japan's opening offensive after Pearl Harbor (Lukacs 53)

³ Fortified island situated 2 mi. off the Bataan peninsula, part of the Philippines island of Luzon

⁴ Manilla Bay, across the island from where the "Battle of the Points" took place, declared an "Open City" by General Douglas MacArthur to prevent it from becoming devastated by war (Owens Collection)

⁵ Regiment of Marines from Marine Barracks Olongapo and the formerly Cavite-based 1st Special Defense Battalion, many Asiatic Fleet Sailors fought in the regiment's ranks as its 4th Provisional Battalion following the scuttling of their vessels, defending the beaches of Corregidor against repeated Japanese landing attempts ("Bataan and Corregidor")

⁶ Captain Leo F. Welch, command over squadron 5 of the Canopus (Ancestry Library)

⁷ "threats" SC1

Of course they knew that situation was just about out of the question, and that any man in either group would gladly give us his own place if fate should give his shipmates a chance to "make a dash for it."

CHAPTER VIII

Tojo's¹ troops seemed a little discouraged by their setbacks early in February, and for several weeks left us in doubt as to whether their policy might not have been changed in favor of a starving-out process. Scouting planes and occasional light bombers were still seen almost every day, mostly over our front lines or air fields, but nothing was attempted that could compare with earlier attacks. Perhaps the answer was that the Japs² were busy on other projects--it was during this period that drives on Singapore and Java were in full fury.

Whatever the reason, Navy men in the Mariveles³ area frequently found themselves on the verge of boredom, and even though the Canopus repair men had plenty of work, other ratings sometimes found time for idle speculation and conjecture. The radio brought us daily news of fighting on other fronts,⁴ and broadcasts were always followed by meetings of amateur boards of strategy, intent on devising ways and means by which relief could be sent to the Islands, or routes⁵ by⁶ which the marooned ships could escape from the trap, to rejoin the Fleet fighting far south of us.

After all, if little merchant ships could slip through to southern Philippine ports and return, as they did several times during this lull, why wouldn't the Canopus or any of the smaller ships have a chance of getting⁷ through to Australia? Nevertheless, the answer from the high command was always an emphatic "no", and that was that. Undoubtedly, the Army needed us, and perhaps the soldiers' morale might have suffered if they felt the Navy was deserting them. If that was to be the order of the day, so be it--there must be no question of the Navy's willingness to do its full share.

In spite of rebuffs, our men never quite gave up hope that the situation would some day change so that they could sail the seas again, and they were determined to be ready for that day--if it came. The fuel in the Canopus tanks was hoarded like gold, representing as it did even more

¹ Hideki Tōjō (1884-1948), general of the Imperial Japanese Army, Minister of War and Prime Minister of Japan during WWII

² OLD: Jap (ADJ, N), offensive, informal short for Japanese.

³ SC1 [Ma riveles]

⁴ SC1 [xxxxnt (marked out word after "fronts,")]

⁵ SC1 [routs]

⁶ SC1 [be]

⁷ SC1 [gett ng]

value in terms of possible salvation. The ship's boats were kept tuned up, and many plans¹ laid for just such a dash as Lt. Comdr. Morrill² and his men later made when capture was imminent. Almost anything that would float was an object of speculation as to its possible value in escaping capture if the worst came to the worst.

Our prize entry in the "Dunkirk Sweepstakes"³ was a forty five foot sloop⁴, one⁵ of several yachts which had escaped⁶ from Manila. This one had come to grief on the rocks of Bataan, to be salvaged later, in spite of many difficulties, by a few officers of the Canopus and Army Engineers. Her bottom was badly pounded, and she had been completely stripped of fittings. However, our amateur yachtsmen were not to be stopped by such minor obstacles. There was an overturned cargo lighter nearby, which had resisted all efforts to right it. A miniature dry dock was built on the exposed bottom of this lighter, and the sloop hoisted aboard it for extensive overhaul. An auxiliary engine was gotten from a wrecked automobile, and a new suit of sails and rigging was fitted by loving hands. Rechristened the "Novia"⁷, and back in her native element, the dainty little craft was the central figure in many

¹ SC1 [plane]

² John Henry Morrill (1903-97), decorated US Navy rear admiral; reference to the quick-thinking rescue of his men when their disabled craft was under fire ("Valor Awards for John Henry Morrill").

³ Reference to the massive 1940 evacuation of Allied troops in Dunkirk, France

⁴ OLD: Sloop (N), 1.2 historical A small anti-submarine warship used for convoy escort in the Second World War.

⁵ SC1 [onf]

⁶ SC1 [excapted]

⁷ OLD: Novia (N) In Spain and Spanish-speaking countries and amongst Hispanic Americans: a girlfriend, a fiancée; a bride.

a dream of adventurous passage through the southern seas. On moonlight nights, visiting Army¹ officers and nurses were treated to romantic little cruises in the channels near Corregidor, perhaps helping them forget for² a moment the grim realities³ of war.

The “Novia” was still afloat until the last desperate hours of Corregidor, but no word has come through as to her eventual fate. Perhaps when the War is over, we will learn whether she carried a desperate crew to their deaths in a final effort to win freedom.

Nearly every evening, Army officers and nurses who were able to snatch a few hours leave from their duties, gathered on board the Canopus. We had refrigeration, excellent cooking facilities, and decent living quarters, which seemed heaven to them compared to their hardships in the field. To enjoy a real shower bath, cold drinking water, well-cooked meals served on white linen with civilized table ware, and greatest luxury of all, real butter,⁴ seemed almost too much for them to believe. When these favored ones returned to their primitive surroundings and described these “feasts” topped off with ice cream and chocolate sauce, they were often put in the same “dog house” as the optimists who claimed to have seen a fleet of transports steaming in.

Our visitors repaid us in full for any hospitality with tales of their own adventures. Captain Wermuth,⁵ the famous “one many army”⁶ often regaled us with graphic, even gruesome accounts of his many encounters. General Casey⁷, Major Wade Cochrane, Major Kircher, Major⁸ Lauman and many others kept us in touch with affairs at USAFE⁹¹⁰ headquarters and the front¹¹ lines. Occasionally Marine officers from Corregidor would manufacture reasons for visiting Bataan so that they could visit the Canopus and refresh their memories of better days. Bulkeley¹² and other torpedo boat officers in particular enjoyed our ice cream desserts. We were only sorry

¹ SC1 [A my].

² SC1 [“for” added above “forget”].

³ SC1 [realiti s].

⁴ SC1 [no comma].

⁵ Arthur William Wermuth (1915-1981), decorated WWII US Army captain nicknamed the “One-Man Army of Bataan” and “Bataan ne Yurei” (The Ghost of Bataan) for his high number of kills due to the unconventional survival, reconnaissance, and sniping skills he used on risky missions into enemy territory. (Sterner; Holbrook).

⁶ SC1 [Army].

⁷ Hugh John Casey (1898-1981), US Army major general, served as General McArthur’s Chief Engineer in the Philippines (“Valor Awards for Hugh John Casey”).

⁸ SC1 [Magor].

⁹ SC1 [USAFFE].

¹⁰ US Air Forces in Europe (*Home Page of US Air Forces in Europe*)

¹¹ SC1 [and front].

¹² John Duncan Bulkeley (1911-66), decorated US Navy vice admiral, famous for his role in evacuating General McArthur from Corregidor (“Valor Awards for John Duncan Bulkeley”).

when our own supplies began to fail toward the end, and we could no longer maintain quite as good hotel service for our friends.

During February the Japs started feeling out the defenses of Corregidor and the other fortified islands. They mounted gun batteries on the south shore¹ of Manila Bay, which made a practice of banging out a few quick shots, then shifting their positions before the ponderous guns of our forts could be brought to bear effectively on them. They would also try to confuse the issue by setting off several false flashes in other locations at the same time their guns were fired. The batteries were usually cunningly concealed behind foliage, or in valleys where they could not be seen from the Army's spotting stations.

Little actual damage was done by these sporadic shellings, but they served to remind the garrisons² that they were still in a war, and that the trap was still sprung.

Early in March Bulkeley's torpedo craft slipped out of the harbor on their famous dash to the southern Philippines, carrying as passengers General McArthur³ and Rear Admiral Rockwell⁴, with their staffs. A few days later,⁵ the Japanese learned of their departure, and started a leaflet propaganda campaign among the Filipinos⁶, claiming that our troops had been deserted by their leaders, that further resistance was foolish, and similar arguments.

¹ SC1 [shoe].

² SC1 [ga risons].

³ Douglas McArthur (1880-1964), US Army five-star general.

⁴ Francis Warren Rockwell (1886-1979), US Navy vice admiral ("Valor Awards for Francis Warren Rockwell").

⁵ SC1 [no comma].

⁶ SC1 [Filliponos].

Fortunately, most of the poison had been extracted from their propaganda by the fact that General McArthur's¹ departure had already been announced to the troops², as well as the reason for it.

Occasionally, our submarines, which were prowling the sea lanes³ looking for Jap⁴ ships to sink, would pay us a visit while en route from patrol⁵ stations back to their new southern bases. Other submarines also made special visits when required, bringing in vital medical supplies or ammunition of any kind which happened to be urgently needed. Nearly all of these submarines took out passengers when they left-high political personages, Army⁶ and Navy officers, and specially trained enlisted⁷ men who were badly needed to carry on the war⁸ elsewhere. Greatest comfort⁹ of all to those left behind were¹⁰ the letters these submarines carried to their loved ones at home. Unfortunately,¹¹ this service was never organized to bring in mail for the beleaguered¹² forces from distribution centers in the south. Those long months with never a word from home were not the least of our trials, even though we felt that our families were making every effort to get messages to us.

¹ SC1 [McA thur's].

² SC1 [troops].

³ SC1 [landes].

⁴ SC1 [Japs].

⁵ SC1 [ships t soml. wpi d lau is a vosot wjo o om rpite fpr, ½atrp] .

⁶ SC1 [A my].

⁷ SC1 [ellisted/enlisted].

⁸ SC1 [wa].

⁹ SC1 [domfort].

¹⁰ SC1 [w].

¹¹ SC1 [Unfurtunately,].

¹² SC1 [beleagured].

Chapter IX

The last week in March brought to an end our suspicions that the Japs were committed to a starving-out policy. No doubt they would have “lost face” if¹ they had to concede that they could only win by such waiting tactics. At any rate, a heavy and sustained offensive² suddenly broke against our weary and undernourished troops.

Supplies and equipment had evidently been stocked at captured air fields, so that they could now be used as bases for sustained offensive³ operations. It was only about a fifteen minute trip by bomber from these fields to Bataan⁴ or Corregidor⁵, which made it possible for the Japs to keep the air filled with planes throughout the day and night. For the first time during the siege, they experimented with night “nuisance raids”⁶. The planes came either singly or in pairs. Their pilots were usually blinded by Army searchlights so that their bombing was inaccurate, and effective only in breaking up the rest of our weary defenders.

Constant day attacks, however, took a more substantial toll. Much of the Navy’s oil supplies, scattered in small caches in the underbrush around Mariveles harbor⁷, was touched off by searching bombs. Exposed water pipes, telephone, and power lines had to be repaired daily to maintain services. Few of the temporary buildings, set up to provide shelter during the approaching rainy season, were untouched⁸. Word must have gotten to the Japs that the Canopus was still an effective unit, resulting in four more attempts to destroy her, but without success.

Corregidor, the air fields, the front lines, and supply dumps in the hills—all came in for constant harassing attacks. Even the plainly marked and defenseless hospitals were viciously bombed. The difficulties confronting any attempt to maintain supplies to the front lines can well be imagined.⁹

With enemy planes hovering constantly overhead, the artillery, which had been a major factor in stopping previous attacks, was unable to keep up effective fire. Showers of bombs

¹ If] Of SC1

² Offensive] o fensive SC1

³ Offensive] offe ssie SC1

⁴ Bataan is a province located in the Mount Natib of the Philippines.

⁵ Corregidor is an island south of the Philippines. It is south east of Bataan.

⁶ OED: Nuisance raids (N), wartime act of bombing to interrupt or distract.

⁷ Mariveles harbor is a town located in Bataan, south of Mount Bataan, North of Corregidor island.

⁸ Untouched] Unt uched SC1

⁹ Imagined] imangined SC1

would crash around any emplacement when its position was disclosed by the smoke and blast of discharge.

It was scarcely a surprise when we heard reports on April sixth that the front lines were in serious trouble. Under a terrific artillery barrage, the Philippine Army troops in the center of the line had given way, and exposed the crest of Mariveles mountain¹⁰ to capture. Now indeed our artillery was blind, having lost the elevated observation posts which were their only means of directing fire of their guns. Unless¹¹ the lost positions could be recaptured, the whole peninsula would be exposed to Jap artillery fire.

All reserves were drawn in for the supreme effort. Every remaining take was thrown into the breach. Even the beaches were¹² left unguarded in order to provide all possible reinforcements, but the task proved too great for the weakened troops. On April eighth came the news that Army forces of the eastern flank were retreating toward Mariveles harbor, destroying stores and ammunition dumps in the path of the victorious Japanese.

¹⁰ Mariveles Mountain is located in Bataan in the Philippines. It is north of Corregidor island and Mariveles bay. East of Mount Bataan. It is also a volcano.

¹¹ Unless] U lees SC1

¹² Were] w SC1

All hope of holding Bataan was gone, leaving us with the grim duty of destroying everything that might be of value to the Nipponese¹. Early in the day, the Commandant² had told us that no Navy or Army forces would be evacuated to Corregidor, since that island was already³ overcrowded. However⁴, at ten thirty that night, he telephoned that General Wainwright⁵ had decided to accept on the island one Scout regiment and the Naval forces at Mariveles. These favored units were to augment the beach defenses of Corregidor, thus continuing their fight from a new set of fox holes⁶. Unfortunately, it later developed that very few of the Scouts were able to reach an embarkation point for Corregidor before the Japs cut them off.

Evacuation of the Navy forces had to be completed before dawn brought over more swarms of bombers or an advance guard of Jap tanks. Without defenses and shelters which were being destroyed, the sailors would be helpless. That wild and horrible, yet weirdly beautiful night must be imprinted forever in the memories of all who lived through its spectacular fury. For miles back on the slopes of the mountain, burning Army ammunition⁷ dumps light the sky with showers of rocket-like streamers, while the ground shook with heavy detonations of exploding ammunition. A severe earthquake shock felt on Corregidor was not even noticed on Bataan, which was continually vibrating with manmade earthquakes.

Roads were chocked with retreating troops, often stopped for hours waiting for a dangerously near ammunition dump to burn itself out. Around the shores of Mariveles bay, Navy men blew up the Dewey floating dry-dock⁸, which has served the Asiatic fleet for so many years, and scuttled the ships which had no part to play in defending Corregidor. The Canopus seemed reluctant to go, but her crew could still take pride in the fact that the Japs had been unable to knock her out – she was still able to back out under her own power to deep water. There she was laid to her final rest by the hands of the sailors she had served so faithfully.

Each man was to be limited almost to the clothes on his back while on the “Rock”⁹, but we took large supplies of equipment which would be useful in defense. Machine guns, rifles,

¹ OED: Nipponese (N), offensive turn for Japanese.

² OED: Commandant (N), officer in charge of a certain group or unit.

³ Already] already SC1

⁴ However] Howeve4 SC1

⁵ Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright became the senior field commander of US and Filipino forces in the Philippine Islands.

⁶ Hole] hols SC1

⁷ Ammunition] ammu ition SC1

⁸ Dewey floating dry-dock is a ship built in 1905 that is used to repair other ships during the war.

⁹ The Rock refers to Corregidor island.

ammunition, food, and fuel were all on the "Urgent" list. All through the night, long lines of men scurried from storage tunnels to the docks, carrying the precious supplies to evacuation boats, heedless of exploding dynamite all around them, and paying no attention to frequent reports that Jap troops were rapidly approaching. There was no way of knowing that these reports were premature, because the burring ammunition dumps gave a fine imitation of heavy firing.

As soon as the tunnels were cleared of useful supplies, their entrances were blown in by dynamite charges to prevent the Japs from using them or the equipment left behind. Just before dawn, all boats had finally been loaded, and the little fleet started off for Corregidor.

The last three boats, loaded with weary Canopus men, had just left the dock when the tortured earth struck back at them. The whole hillside seemed to erupt in a tremendous burst of orange flame, hurling huge boulders half a mile out into the bay, lashing the calm waters into stormy, frothing waves. Evidently, gasoline drums stored in one of the tunnels had been broken open.

when the entrance was dynamited, and fumes in the corked-up passage had built up a gigantic explosive charge. Our three boats were squarely in the path of that deluge of destruction. Two of them were struck by massive boulders, one of them sinking instantly under an impact which sheared off the whole stern, leaving its three occupants struggling in the seething water. Fortunately, they were not hurt, and were soon rescued by shipmates in the undamaged boat. The other injured boat did not sink, but boulders crashing down through its canopy had killed an officer and three men. Nine other men had been wounded by the rain of heavy rocs. However, the battered boat was still able to run, so the interrupted voyage to Corregidor was resumed. Solicitous shipmates eased the suffering of the wounded as best they could, but medical aid had to wait until arrival at the "Rock"¹ more than an hour later.

¹ Rock] wrock SC1

CHAPTER X

Our ship was gone, and our “Dunkirk”¹ was over, but no welcoming homeland was waiting to solace our battered warriors, nor could any but the most incurable optimist see rosy prospects for the future. The channel through Corregidor’s² northern mine fields, through which boats must pass to meet rescue submarines, could no longer be used because of Jap gun batteries³ now lining⁴ the shores of Bataan⁵. There had never been a channel through the southern mine fields, which made it look as if we were bottled up by our own deadly obstructions.

There were mine sweepers⁶ among the Navy ships huddled in Corregidor’s South Harbor, but no one had ever devised a sweep wire⁷ that could be pushed ahead of a ship, and if it were towed astern in the usual manner, the sweeping vessel would inevitably be blown up by the thickly planted mines. There was only one glimmer of hope. If small boats, starting close inshore, could sweep a narrow channel without chancing on mines near the surface, the big sweepers could follow behind⁸ and widen the breach--provided they were lucky enough not to stray a few feet off the straight and narrow path. All this work would have to be done at night, making accurate navigation almost impossible.

No matter how dangerous the job, there were always⁹ enthusiastic Navy men to undertake it. The versatile¹⁰ motor launches¹¹ of the Canopus were turned over to experienced¹² Mine Force sailors, and became miniature sweepers. Navigational lights were rigged on shore, hooded to screen their purpose from watchful Japanese eyes. Night after night, for two weeks, the daring¹³ crews gambled their lives against their skill--and luck--until success finally¹⁴ crowned their

¹ Dunkirk] Dunkird SC1.

² Island in the mouth of Manila Bay, Phillipines (USS Canopus Part I).

³ Fortified emplacements for heavy gun.

⁴ lining] linei g SC1.

⁵ Bataan Peninsula, Phillipines.

⁶ A ship or aircraft equipped for detecting and removing or destroying explosive mines; Minesweepers *Tanager*, *Finch*, and *Quail* operated out of Corregidor (“Bataan and Corregidor”).

⁷ A wire dragged through the water by one or two ships to cut the mooring wire of floating mines.

⁸ behind] beh nd SC1.

⁹ always] walwas SC1.

¹⁰ versatile] versatiel SC1.

¹¹ Small, open vessel.

¹² experienced] experience SC1.

¹³ daring] aring SC1.

¹⁴ gambled...finally] omit SC1.

efforts. Many mines had exploded near the venturesome boats, but never quite close enough to destroy them. Again a path to the sea was open, making it possible for submarines to come in and rescue a few chosen passengers.

In the meantime¹, the defenses of Corregidor and nearby fortified islands were gradually being² blasted to bits. There were now not nearly so many objectives to distribute the enemy's³ bombing raids, which made destruction that much more concentrated on the ones still unconquered. The shores of Bataan were within easy artillery range, and batteries lining the beaches pounded day and night against every exposed position on the islands. Observation balloons⁴ were even sent up in Bataan to make it easier for artillery shells⁵ to be spotted into every nook and cranny.

Huge two hundred and forty millimeter⁶ shells soon began to search out the deeply buried powder⁷ magazines⁸ under Corregidor's mortar⁹ batteries, causing terrific explosions which wiped out several of the guns and their unfortunate crews.

All of the Canopus crew and officers who were fit for such arduous duty had been sent into beach defenses with the Marines immediately on arrival at Corregidor. This duty involved a precarious existence in fox holes¹⁰ and caves which¹¹ they dug for themselves in the cliffs. They slept¹²

¹ meantime] meantime SC1.

² being] beinb SC1.

³ enemy's] enemy&s SC1.

⁴ Balloon employed for intelligence gathering and artillery spotting.

⁵ An explosive artillery projectile or bomb.

⁶ millimeter] millimenter SC1.

⁷ powder] poqder SC1.

⁸ A compartment for the storage of ammunition and explosives.

⁹ A short smooth-bore gun for firing shells (technically called bombs) at high angles.

¹⁰ Holes in the ground used by troops as a shelter against enemy fire or as a firing point.

¹¹ which] wiich SC1.

¹² slept] slept, SC1.

under the stars at night, and dodged¹ shells and bombs by day. Casualties were surprisingly low, probably² because these men had learned by bitter experience how best to take care of themselves.

Artillery shells were conceded to be worse than bombs, because the latter, at least, “rattled before they struck”. Planes were always seen overhead before bombs could possibly arrive, and the swish could be heard in time to duck into whatever shelter was handy. But high velocity artillery shells strike³ before the sound is heard, and no one could tell where or when the next blast would erupt. The guns also could, and frequently⁴ did, concentrate their pounding on a small area⁵ until everything in it was demolished⁶.

In the face of everything that kept their tenure of life uncertain, most of the open-air dwellers had the spirit⁷ to be sorry for the less active men, who were condemned to breathe the foul air of the comparatively sheltered tunnels! Obviously, the outdoor contingent wore the free, upstanding air of men who have met the acid test of danger, and are masters of their own souls⁸.

Flesh and blood, however, could not endure the merciless pounding indefinitely, nor could the concrete and steel of the forts stand forever. One by one pill boxes⁹ and gun emplacements were knocked out, leaving little to resist when the yellow horde¹⁰ should finally pour from boats in the final assault¹¹. The war will probably be over before we know the full details of those last desperate hours, when valiant men, equipped with little more than courage, were pitted against well-armed invaders.

¹ dodged] dodges SC1.

² probably] probably SC1.

³ strike] stricke SC1.

⁴ frequently] requently SC1.

⁵ small area] mall erea SC1.

⁶ demolished] demolsihed SC1.

⁷ spirit] spririt SC1.

⁸ souls] soulds SC1.

⁹ A small enclosed, partly underground, concrete fort used as an outpost.

¹⁰ Derogatory term for the Japanese used commonly during the period.

¹¹ From Navy Department Communique No. 76, May 6, 1942: “When Corregidor fell, there were approximately 175 officers and 2,100 men of the Navy, and 70 officers and 1,500 men of the Marine Corps in the defending forces. Col. Samuel L. Howard is the senior officer of the Marine Corps personnel on the island. It is assumed that all of these officers and men have been captured and will be held as prisoners of war” (Naval History and Heritage Command 52).

Two nights before that landing, a submarine slipped through the screen of Jap destroyers¹ clustered around the entrance to Manila Bay, and the last group of passengers raced out the new channel to meet their rescue ship. Six Naval officers, six Army officers, eleven Army nurses, one Navy nurse, and the wife of a Naval officer had found their names on the list which represented a last chance for freedom². As their little boat bobbed its way through the darkness, they found it almost impossible to convince themselves that the long months of trial were actually nearing an end. Suppose something had happened to keep that submarine from reaching the appointed spot? Could she get through the cordon of enemy³ destroyers searching only a few miles outside? What a wonderful relief was the sight of that low black hull looming through the darkness, waiting exactly on her station!

In final testimony of the hell left behind⁴, the dark bulk of Corregidor suddenly blazed with fires and bursting shells⁵, just as the favored group climbed⁶ on board the submarine⁷. The Japs were laying down⁸ a terrific, continuous barrage that was to mean the end of Corregidor before many more hours had passed.

Within the throbbing steel hull of the submarine, sympathetic crew members served up such food⁹ as the hungry refugees had not seen for months. Bunks were already at a premium, but the choicest ones were unselfishly¹⁰ given up to¹¹ the passengers, with all hands put on a strict schedule for sleeping at different times during the day¹² and night.

Danger was by¹³ no means past. The gauntlet of Japanese patrolled sea

¹ A small, fast warship equipped for a defensive role against submarines and aircraft.

² On May 3, 1942, the submarine *Spearfish* performed the last evacuation of Corregidor (Cressman 29).

³ enemy] enemy SC1.

⁴ behind,] behind, SC1.

⁵ shells,] shell, SC1.

⁶ climbed] climbed SC1.

⁷ submarine.] submarine. SC1.

⁸ were laying down] were starting to lay down SC1.

⁹ food] afood SC1.

¹⁰ unselfishly] unselfishly SC1.

¹¹ to] omit SC1.

¹² day] ay SC1.

¹³ was by] wasby SC1.

lanes still had to be run, and for weeks the only sight of the sun would be through a periscope. But the passengers had placed their destinies in competent hands, and they had no need to worry over such trifles.

When news of the fall of Corregidor came through the radio two days later, faces were grim and grief stricken. We had hoped that there might be time for more submarines to be sent in, and more of our shipmates rescued. Now that last hope for our friends was gone. They had joined the "Missing in Action" roll call.

For them it would always be a roll of honor. Far from being an implication that they might have shirked their duty or fled from the battle, in their case it could only mean death or imprisonment after the most devoted service any nation could ask of its loyal subjects.

Just before the¹ Navy radio station on Corregidor was destroyed to keep it out of alien hands, the Commandant had flashed a final message which well expresses the code by which those sailors lived and fought². Not for themselves were the thoughts of twenty five hundred men and officers of the Navy in that last desperate hour--instead they "reaffirmed their loyalty and devotion to country, families, and friends."

¹ before the] before the SC1.

² From Navy Department Communique No. 76, May 6, 1942: "Just before the fall of this small island fortress which these men have helped to defend so gallantly, the commander of the naval forces at Corregidor, Capt. Kenneth M. Hoeffel, U. S. N., joined his officers and men in sending a last message of loyalty, devotion, and good cheer to their country, their families and their friends" (Naval History and Heritage Command 52).

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