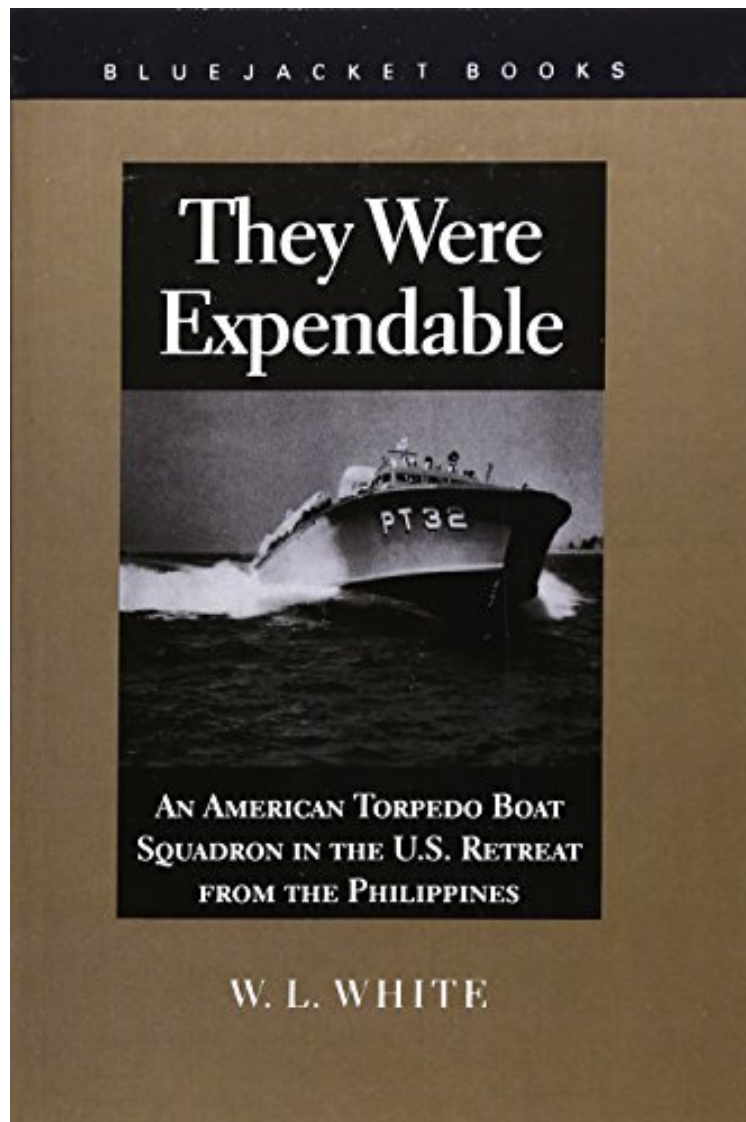


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They Were Expendable: An American Torpedo Boat Squadron in the U.S. Retreat from the Philippines (Bluejacket Books)

W. L. White

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W. L. White : They Were Expendable: An American Torpedo Boat Squadron in the U.S. Retreat from the Philippines (Bluejacket Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They Were Expendable: An American Torpedo Boat Squadron in the U.S. Retreat from the Philippines (Bluejacket Books):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great read then, great read now
By Petra DeVerona
They Were Expendable is a story about PT boats in WWII. I first read it when I was 11. It is not only an engaging story, it gets some very good points across about life in general. When I went through some tough times, the story and its lessons were part of what got me through them. It was a joy to reread this book. If you like war stories, action, adventure, and good old fashioned grit, you'll like this book. I had no problem with reading it as a 6th grader, but I've always had a high reading level. I would recommend it for teens and up.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Great Story
By johnbg
This is a beautifully crafted book that makes you feel like you're sitting on the front porch listening to a great story-teller. While a tale told by two officers, it's a clear and moving picture of war on a PT boat in Manila Bay during the early days of WWII. A tale of competent professionalism and quiet heroism in the face of an advancing Japanese army. Great stuff.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, accessible story
By David
You'll be frustrated if you come to this book looking for historical analysis or new insights on the early Pacific theater. This is a stylized personal narrative - not hard history.
Still a good, accessible read and a fascinating historical document. The back of my copy's dust jacket featured an appeal to buy war bonds.

A national bestseller when it was originally published in 1942 and the subject of a 1945 John Ford film featuring John Wayne, this book offers a thrilling account of the role of the U.S. Navy's Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Three during the disastrous Philippine campaign early in World War II. The author uses an unusual, but thorough, spellbinding format to tell the story: an interview with four heroic young participants. Ranked "with the great tales of war" by the Saturday Review of Literature, it is a deeply moving book that describes the four officers' extraordinary exploits from the first appearance of Japanese planes over Manila Bay to the squadron's calamitous end-including getting Gen. Douglas MacArthur safely to Australia. Filled with action, drama, and history, this unique portrayal of "America's little Dunkirk" was described by the New York Times as being "almost unbearably painful at times, yet so engrossing that few who begin it will be able to put it down until they have finished its adventure-packed pages."

From the Back Cover
A national bestseller when it was originally published in 1942 and the subject of a 1945 John Ford film featuring John Wayne, They Were Expendable offers an account of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Three's heroic actions during the disastrous Philippine campaign early in World War II. The author uses an unusual and effective format to tell the story: an interview with the four young survivors whose names are forever linked with the tragedy - John Bulkeley, Robert Kelly, Anthony Akers, and George Cox. Deeply moving, it describes Squadron Three's brave exploits, from the first appearance of Japanese planes over Manila Bay to its calamitous end, including a thrilling account of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's escape from Bataan.