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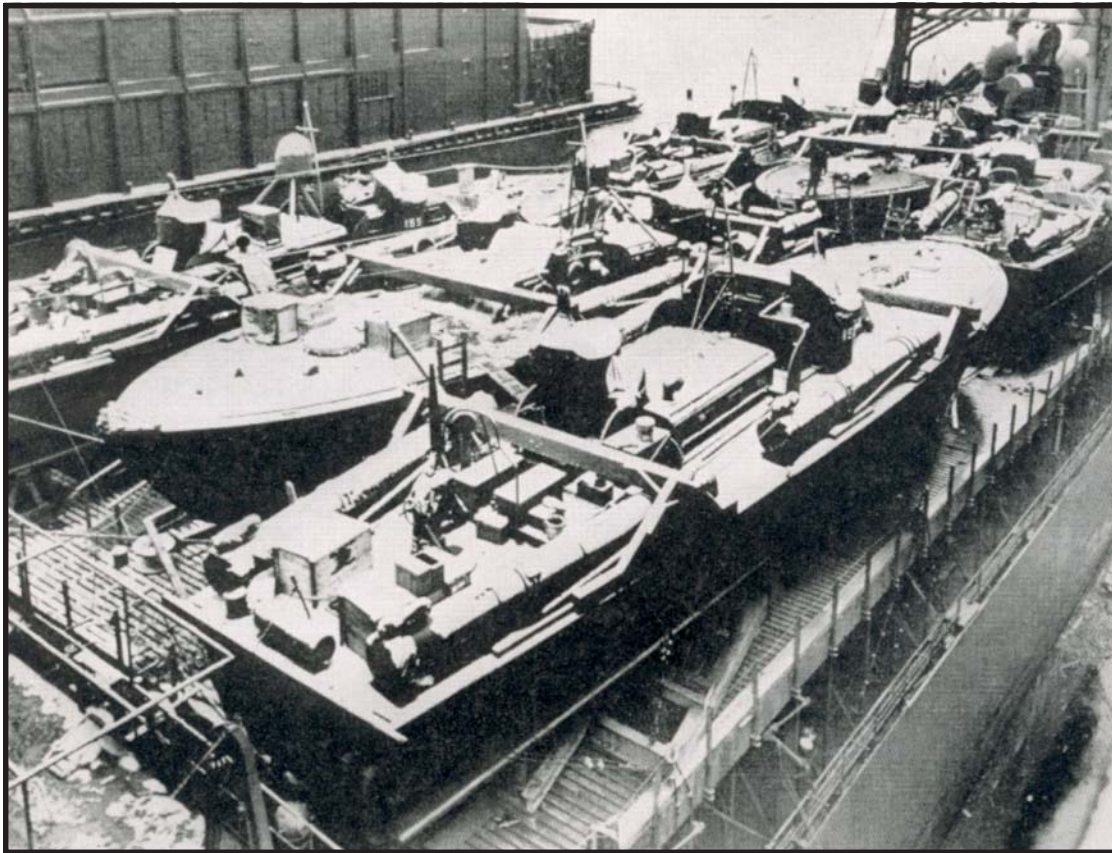


motor car club

PACKARD SPEED AND DEPENDABILITY

"MEN BET THEIR LIVES ON IT"

The "it" in that statement refers to the engines build by the Packard Motor Car Company.



In 1937, knowing there was no money for Capital ships, General MacArthur asked the U.S. Navy if they could develop an attack boat to help defend the Philippines. Because of that request, the small but mighty PT Boat, powered by three Packard Marine engines, sporting 4050 HP, was born. Little did the General know his request would save his and the lives of so many others.

"THEY WERE EXPENDABLE!" A rare prewar photograph, showing the loading of a squadron of motor torpedo boats aboard a special auxiliary deck, built over the main deck, of a Navy oiler which carried them to the Philippines. Some of these boats, here ready to leave New York, became part of the famous Squadron Three, commanded by Lieutenant John D. Buckeley, USN."

At the outset of the war there were only three PT squadrons. One was stationed at Pearl Harbor and helped to fight off the Jap sneak attack. Another was in training, and the third, under Buckeley, was in the Philippines. Squadron Three had six boats. In his report of the Jap strike at the Philippines Admiral E. J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Fleet, wrote: "On the evening of December 8, therefor, after the Japanese had bombed our airfields and destroyed many of General MacArthur's planes, our submarines, and motor torpedo boats, which were still in Philippine waters, were left with the task of impeding the enemy's advance."

The PT's did their bit, and by sudden forays and surprise night attacks sent thousands of tons of Japanese shipping to the bottom. Two of the six boats struck coral reefs, and were too badly damaged for repair. But the other four carried on, and, finally, on March 11, 1942, they stole silently away from Corregidor with some twenty passengers. Enemy ships were lurking on every hand, and the gasoline supply was low. After several narrow escapes, however, the four PT's brought General MacArthur and his staff safely to an island to the south, where Army planes awaited to fly them to Australia."

From: *PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR & BATTLE STATIONS-YOUR NAVY IN ACTION*- Published 1946