



OPERATION JAYWICK

MAJOR IVAN LYON DECLARED HIS OWN PERSONAL WAR AGAINST JAPAN
AND CREATED ONE OF THAT CONFLICT'S MOST DARING ACTIONS

BY KELLY BELL

In many ways Imperial Japan was sowing the seeds of her own destruction during those heady days of early 1942. Apart from already having goaded America into a program of massive retaliation, the Emperor's marauding and murderous forces seriously crossed one of the most significant agents of the British Empire's Far Eastern presence. Shackled by outmoded

convention and overconfidence, the military commanders of the Crown's Pacific bastion of Singapore were still discussing the situation over tea and crumpets as February broke. Perched on the very tip of the lengthy Malaysian peninsula, Singapore was seriously vulnerable to attack by land forces moving down from the north. With the bulk of the city's defenses absurdly geared to opposing a seaborne invasion

that never came, Japanese infantry and armor faced little significant opposition as they bore down on and breached Singapore's northern perimeter. By the 15th of that month, His Majesty's amazed and utterly defeated army had surrendered and was *en route* to miserable captivity. Yet the most determined and formidable of the city's garrison members had escaped and was already plotting his return.

Painting by Dennis Adams of an Operation Jaywick crew preparing to attach a limpet mine captures all the danger and excitement of the raid.