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UNITED NEWS SPECIAL.

Box 11796
FIRST PICTURES OF THE INVASION OF MARSHALLS.

The Marshall Islands .. target for the most powerful all-American offensive in history .. In mid-Pacific, almost half-way between Pearl Harbour and Tokyo, the Marshalls have been Jap-held since World War I. Now the greatest Navy task force ever assembled moves in to take the Marshalls from the enemy. Weeks of savage air and naval bombardment .. 15,000 tons of bursting metal and explosives .. have preceded this amphibious attack.

Chosen for the assault is the heart of the Marshalls .. Kwajalein .. largest atoll in the world .. and key to the mastery of the entire Island group. Our Navy's tactics are to drive boldly past smaller, surrounding atolls and deliver the knockout punch here .. against this string of 92 coral islets stretching around this 66 mile lagoon. Kwajalein Island itself is hit by the Army's Seventh Infantry Division - veterans of Aitua. Simultaneously, the Fourth Marine Division strikes at Roi and Namur - to the north. With precise timing, the offensive opens. Airpower guards the offshore transports.

Down landing nets go the Marines .. into barges rocking in a choppy sea.

Navy fire power covers the approach to the shores of Roi Island.

Safely landed, Marines hug the coral rocks for cover and move up from the beach. Our shattering preliminary fire has crushed strong Jap positions, but machine-gunners and snipers are still holding out.

Marine marksmen fire on Japs who have attempted escape by swimming an Island channel.

Mortar fire cleans up on Roi's airstrip.

The airstrip is occupied. Jap drainage ditches are dynamited.

The enemy used them both for shelter - and for communication trenches.

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FIRST PICTURES OF THE INVASION OF MARSHALLS

A naked metal framework is all the remains of the Roi hangar. The strip is littered with smashed Jap planes.

This was Jap H.Q. Navy, Marine and newsreel cameramen photographed the Marshall operations.

Jap beer .. for the conquerors.

Giant enemy pillboxes, of steel and concrete, were torn apart by our fire. As at Tarawa, Japs who still lived crawled back with the dead and had to be exterminated one by one.

Twenty-eight Japs died here for every American. On Nantar Island, Marine dead are buried. Our total losses in the capture of Kwajalein atoll were 368 killed and missing. We killed or captured 84 hundred Japs. For the first time we have invaded and conquered Japanese territory. Japan knows well that this is only a beginning.

Down landing nets to the Marines .. into barges rocking in a choppy sea.

Navy fire power covers the approach to the shores of Roi Island.

Safely landed, Marines dug the coral to make for cover and move up from the beach. Our shattering primary fire has crunched upon Jap positions, but machine-guns and snipers are still holding out.

Marine marksmen fire on Japs who have made a escape by swimming in a narrow channel.

Mortar fire cleans up on Roi's atoll.

The atoll is occupied. Jap distress dishes are dismantled.

The enemy uses both for shelter - and for communication trenches.

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