

September 13, 1944.

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1. TITLE: EYEWITNESS -- PACIFIC CLOSEUP
2. This is Damien Parer reporting. The Marines' great battles from Guadalcanal to Guam are well known. But here is a story of unarmed men in uniform, the combat photographers of the U.S. Marine Corps.
6. This morning I watched one crew being briefed to accompany a jungle patrol. Here's the script from which the four cameramen who cover the action will work....and these are the men, Americans from every part of the country who face the enemy with a lens instead of a gun. Like Sgt. Burt Balaban of New York City, operating the 16 millimeter camera when he isn't ducking bullets. Shooting Japs in this damp and steaming jungle, says he, is tough enough with a gun, let alone a camera! Balaban adds: "We ate dirt most of the morning, pinned down by a stubborn Jap machine gun, tossing grenades when we could. Bullets passed so close we could feel the wind on our backs.
15. These men behind the still and movie cameras face death every moment. And there's only one way they like to photograph Japanese -- dead.
19. The patrol goes on, but time for Sgt. Balaban to light a butt for his pal, Pete Puster of Ft. Worth. Yes, they're unsung heroes: Cpl. Bob Simpson of Evanston, Illinois; Joe Davis from Del Rio, Texas, Cpl Al Walavich of Chicago. When the landing boats go in, when the Marines go ashore, in the foxholes and in the jungles these men are there. They're part of a team, a team we all know well -- the United States Marines!