

G.B. AMERICAN SHIPMENTINVASION OF IWO JIMABox No. 1899
Paramount

The greatest United States force ever assembled in the Pacific closes on Iwo Jima Island. 800 ships and thousands of small landing craft head for the eight square miles of concentrated hell swarming with fanatical Jap fighters... A scant 625 nautical miles from Tokyo, this invasion is a "must" for our forces... Carriers lying back of the main fleet sent in hundreds of bombers. open to in air 16 ft) For 72 days before the landings our bombers pound the heavily fortified Jap base. open volcano 4 ft) Surabachi, 546 ft. volcano guards Iwo- and heavy dangerous flak threatens planes coming in to dive bomb shore positions. (open ls planes on ground 12 ft) Wave after wave of shattering destruction from the skies. open planes coming back 14 ft) The death dealing planes of the task force return, some of them carrying the scars of battle.. others are even less fortunate. open pilot swimming 12 ft) Breaking free of the wreckage, the pilot swims until help arrives.. despite the heavy seas the rescue is successful. open ships 21 ft) L.CI's crowded with reconnaissance patrols head for the hostile shore. On D day minus 2 and D day minus 1, many of these heroic scouts gave their lives to obtain important information. Our battleships struck 10 separate times at Iwo to soften it up. open ls shore 27 ft) The Japs mistaking our reconnaissance for attack, reported our landings had been repulsed. (open thru 2nd. shore hit 15 ft) 3 days and nights of thunder and flame proceeded the actual landings, open landing craft 20 ft) The landings are routed with time table precision. Marines of the 4th. and 5th Divisions delivered by the Coast Guard, head for the beach. As the hundreds of craft move in, planes lay down a protective smoke screen. open lite 4 ft.) Further protection is provided by a cover barrage of light guns and rockets. open barges 25 ft) 40,000 Marines are rushed to the desolate shores of the island, so important in our

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Plan for victory over Japan. Enemy planes, based on Iwo's 2 air-fields were a continual menace to our big B-29s passing near this base on the round trip to Tokyo. With the Gilbrater of the Pacific in our hands, the tables are turned. Soon our bombers and fighters will strike from Iwo, a scant 750 land miles from the Jap capital. From rocky positions, enemy mortars shell our landing barges open boat deck 49ft) A navy combat photographer lies dead on this deck. Other Yanks died with him when a Jap shell made a direct hit. But, under murderous fire, the landings continue. Tanks reach shore and add their power to the attack, open marines hugging beach 20ft) The Japs spent a generation fortifying Iwo Jima, realizing it a great strategic value. But the Marines never heard the word "impossible" and run up the first successful military occupation of Japan's historic boundaries. Open dressing wounds 9ft. Casualties are heavy over 2,000 heroic Marines died on Iwo's bleeding shores. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Open supplies 9ft) The supply problem is difficult. Iwo's black volcanic sands make treacherous going. open oil dump) A Jap oil dump is struck. lite to nect) Through the slit of a tank the camera catches the advance on Motoyama ^{airfield} ~~airfield~~ ~~XXXX~~ no.1. which will serve our bombers. Airfield no.2 fighter air strip was taken later. open ls end of slit 36-ft.) The digged attack rolls up the field and shell fire destroys many enemy planes caught on the ground. open tank flame thrower 8ft) Tank flame throwers pour a with-ering blast at Jap pill boxes,open Jap ducking 28-ft) This Jap never beached his fox hole alive, open advance 17-ft) At the end of D-Day plus one the Marines stuck across the island cutting the enemy lines. open pillbox 6ft) Hand grenades and flame throwers blasted this enemy pillbox and wrecked everything within, including the Nip's rifle.

---3. lite to next) Transports lying off shore await the arrival of the few Jap prisoners taken. In nearly 2 weeks only 85 surrendered, half of them Korean slaves of the Japs. open loading supplies 18 ft) Getting tons of supplies ashore is really brutal, wheeled vehicles mire in the loose volcanic ash. open amtracs 13 ft) Amphibious tractors come to the rescue. open foxhole 5 ft) Digging fox holes in the loose black ash is almost impossible and the barren island offers little comfort to a war weary Marine. open forrestal 18 ft) Secretary of the Navy Forrestal observes the course of Battle. The secretary confers with Marine General "howling mad" Smith, who called this battle the toughest engagement in 168 years of Marine Corps history. The General is mighty proud of his LeatherNecks - and deservedly - they have fought an epic battle (open END)