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ACTION ON TARAWA...FRONT LINE PICTURES FROM THE GILBERT ISLANDS.

Following our recent story of the Invasion of Tarawa come these further pictures of the assault, taken in the very front line of action by an American Marine Corps camera crew. A film record preserved for posterity which will forever tell of the severe fighting in which the pick of America's fighting men were involved. Landing craft and amphibious tanks move in to storm the beaches of Betio Island following the initial bombardment from sea and air. To win that first precarious bridgehead the Marines paid dearly, and to 'hang on like grim death' was no figure of speech; those who survived the dash for cover through the water and across the sand - wide open to a murderous fire - were called upon to hang on to their position at all costs. If that precious little toe-hold were to be wrested from them, every man in the assault would perish. The first wave of Marines, like each ensuing wave, suffered a heavy toll of dead and injured. Getting the wounded back under fire is a perilous business.

In the most dramatic Newsreel story from the Pacific, you see how the Marines inched their way forward. See for yourself how tension grips every man as the shell and bomb battered enemy strongpoints are taken one by one. The crafty Japs don't give up until they're dead. They had to be annihilated before Betio fell.

A giant enemy pillbox. One of the hundreds built of steel and concrete which commanded all the approaches with cross-fire. With flame throwers and grenades the Marines work their way into the wreckage.

Cautiously they work their way forward expecting at any minute to come across Japs in a dug-out or fox-hole still capable of fight. Every Jap in the garrison of four thousand had to be accounted for before the Tarawa battle was won.

Of the nine surviving Japs, this is one. A practically nude Nip who, even now, cannot be trusted. By the end of the third day the whole Island was firmly in American hands.

Korean slave labourers; their Japanese bosses are dead. These captives squat around in groups waiting to be taken off. The fury of battle is over; the engagement has written a new and glorious page in the history of the Marines. By superb gallantry the bloodiest land battle of the Pacific was inscribed to the everlasting glory of the United States Marine Corps.