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THE NATIONAL PICTURE MONTHLY

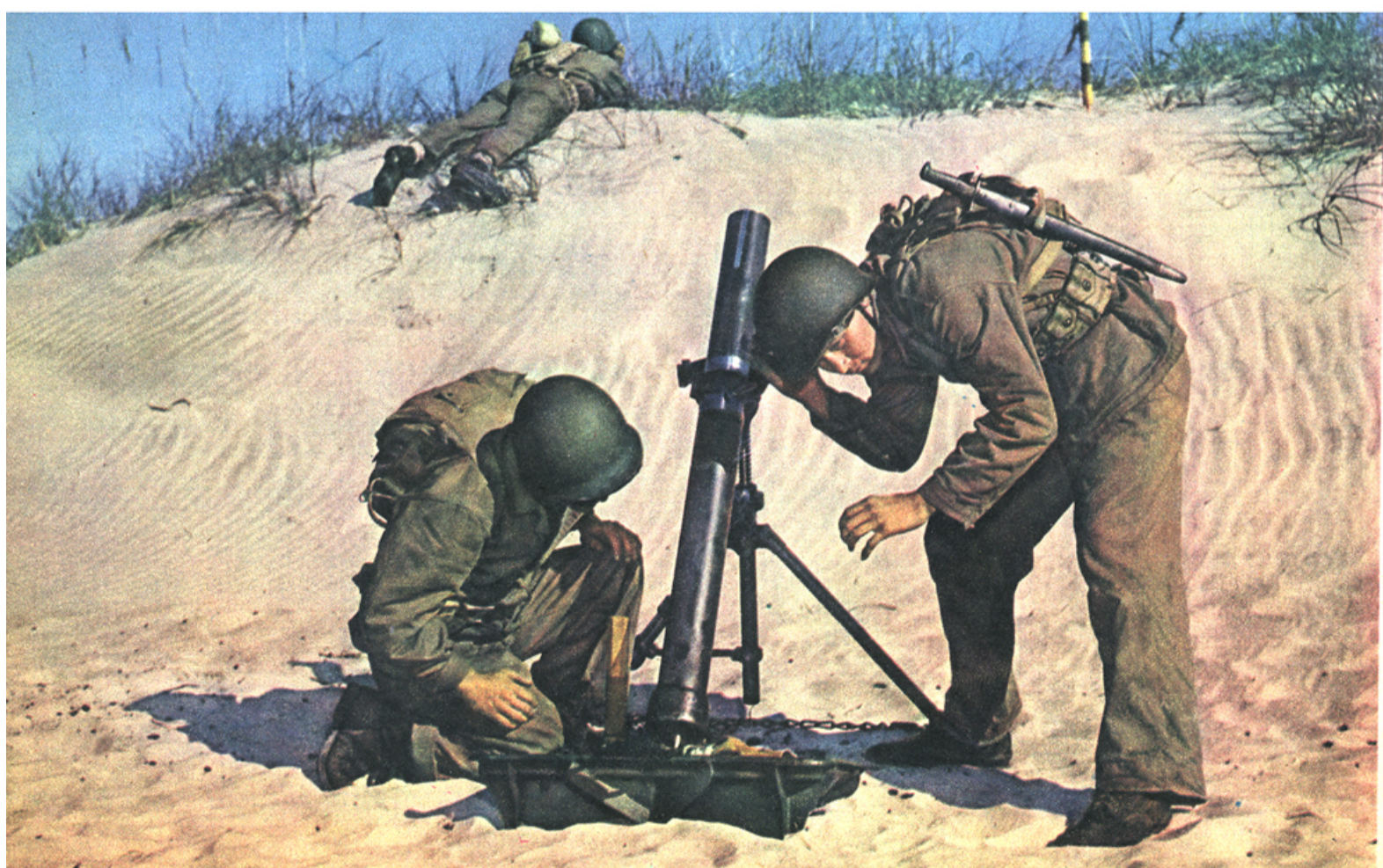
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Tough—And Proud of It!

If the U. S. Marines ever storm the gates of hell, heaven help the Devil! Here's why they're America's cockiest fighters



BREACHING THE BEACH DEFENSES is the most dangerous part of the Marines' assault. They're on their own then, safety in the Navy's ships behind them at sea, the entrenched enemy ahead. From landing barges they fan swiftly ashore to present only a scattered target. First obstacle may be barbed wire. If it's atop land mines, they must crawl through, facing machine-gun fire.



WHEREVER A BREAK-THROUGH IS MADE, special teams step up the attack's power with small mortars which lob shells into the enemy. Here a Marine guards two companions while they set up one of the portable guns. Though artilleryless, the corps uses many weapons bigger than their side arms. Support from another quarter, the rear of the enemy, is given by Paramarines.

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TODAY'S MARINES ARE EXPERTS AT SUDDEN DEATH. HERE TWO RAIDERS, HAVING OVERPOWERED AN ENEMY SENTRY, PREPARE TO FINISH HIM OFF.

Right now the finest thing about the United States Marine is that he's fighting dirty. More dirty and sneaky than the Axis, so he'll have a chance to play fair all the rest of his life! That's why our soldier of the seas has mastered all the back-alley fighting methods of the Nazi thugs and Jap tribesmen, and improved them with scientific, gangster, and Sioux cunning at killing. These make today's Marine—by tradition and training already a one-man Army and Navy of superior intelligence—a specialist in sudden death administered alone or in flexible, hammering force.

So equipped, the Marine has flung himself with continued success into his corps' perpetual job: to parry the enemy's first blow and strike ours. He uses every tool and technique of warfare on land and sea and in the air—just how many is comprehensively shown in these pictures taken at eastern bases training this vanguard of American military might.

Since policy limits Marine corps personnel to 20 per cent of the Navy's, no Marine can specialize as do other service men. He must be a crack rifle and pistol shot, a saboteur, a scout familiar with jungle and city alike. He must run, walk, swim, sail, shoot, and maim better than the men he's fighting. The success of thousands of men behind him, no less than his own survival, depends on such versatility. He glories in this responsibility, as in his corps' 167-year-old reputation as non-pareil shock troops. He's never yielded either that responsibility or reputation to his jealous friends in rough-and-ready Army and Navy units. They resent the Marine. He knows it and doesn't give a damn, cocky in the knowledge that he's relied on to pave the way for the Army's operations and to finish up the Navy's. His corps has never fallen down on those vital tasks. If he won't yield to his service brothers, you can bet that while life's still in him he'll never give up to any enemy.

An apocryphal story about the Marines who defended Wake Island has been circulated with loving delight. Perhaps you've heard it—about the four Leathernecks who were playing bridge during a lull in the attack? A sentry dashed into their dugout with, "There's 200 more Japs landing on the beach!" One of the cardplayers got up and said, "Okay, I'm dummy, I'll go."

That sums up Marine toughness, and Marine awareness of it, better than anything else. Sure he's proud of it. Aren't you?

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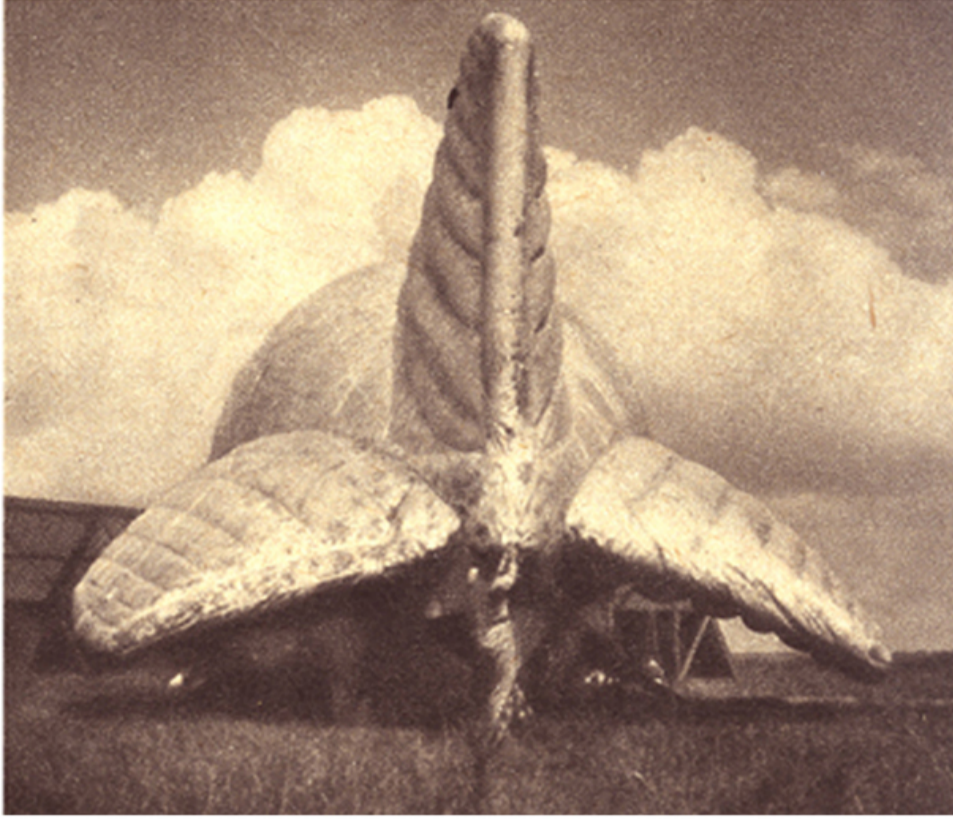
GRIM MINSTRELS REHEARSING for the big show, two Marine Raiders apply make-up. Skin is blackened, metal is dulled in shine and sound. Loose clothing helps them move quickly, easily. When they eliminate a sentry, the raid curtain will be up and the battle on!



THE RAIDERS CREEP TOWARD the alert sentry from two directions, after having landed up the beach from his post. As the sentry turns at a low sound from one of the Marines, the other springs silently from behind him. The garrote will effectively choke off any outcry.

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Cowherd Handling barrage balloons is like nursing a sick cow, Marine herders say. They sleep nearby, cater to whims that vary with the weather—bobbing in the wind will snap balloons' tethers.



Dead-eye Best shots in U. S. uniform are the Marines, whose training is exhaustive. They spend two weeks at practice sighting before firing at all. Here General Hal Turnage coaches a "boot."



'Gator-rider Typical of the Marines themselves are the amphibious vehicles called "alligators." Fully loaded, they can churn from ship to shore, then waddle inland over any sort of ground.



GUARD DISPOSED OF FOR GOOD, the Raiders take his gun and sneak off toward the next outpost. The Raider Battalion must have the beach cleared for a large-scale surprise landing at a dawn hour previously agreed upon. Stealth will be abandoned for slugging then.



Parashooter New, important addition to the shock troops are Paramarines who can drop from planes a few hundred feet up, to attack from the rear. Guns are retrieved from a 'chuted roll which is opened by hands and feet of the fire-ducking unit.



Throat Slitter Every Marine gets plenty of practice with his rifle's razor-sharp "big sticker." He runs the bayonet course, ripping the straw out of dummies. In mock duels he parries his opponent's blade, then skilfully slits his foe's throat.

LICK TEN DEVILS



Tarzan The ape-man has nothing on the Marines on their obstacle course. Swinging across what might be a Guadalcanal stream, climbing walls, crawling through culverts, toughens them up for war.



Rough Guy Twisting a gun out of an attacker's hand is a tactic Marines have developed from jiu-jitsu plus Marine technique. Others: how to gouge eyes, crush eardrums, break spines.



Aquabat Swimming in the Atlantic is a recreation-like part of a training program so strenuous that no sports are scheduled. Mastery of the water—in, on, and above it—is vital to amphibious fighters.



MOST OF THE OFFENSIVE sweeps to the protecting dunes to knock out machine-gun emplacements, then intercepts reinforcements. Speed and strength of a long, broken line are factors which make Marine surprise raids successful.



THEN THE MARINES ESTABLISH their own machine-gunnery atop the dunes, and pour death at the foe from heights he lately used for the same purpose. This is one of the determining actions in the assaults in the Solomons and Africa.

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RUSHING TROUBLE OFF ITS BASE is the least costly treatment in the long run, Marines believe. Now well inland, they charge a sniper's hide-out in an old house. Taking it will climax capture of the beach head and the Army can land in force.

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