Article Title: Closeups at Kwajalein

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Article Summary: This article is the record of a dispatch showing how cameramen of the Signal Corps risked their lives to record complete films of the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.
non-Japanese business interests, including German, in all newly occupied areas of the Pacific.

As one German commented, "This policy places us in exactly the same position as business interests of countries with whom Japan is openly at war."

The Jap announcement of policy said: "Business interests of non-Japanese ownership may operate freely in these areas provided they accept complete Japanese direction as to policy and operations. Any non-Japanese interests which refuse to accept Japanese direction will be regarded as enemy property and confiscated. Persons responsible for such lack of cooperation will be regarded as enemies and punished accordingly."

Much of Japan's hatred for Germany obviously has come from Hitler's efforts to control Japan as he controls Italy. But more basic is Japan's consuming hatred and contempt for all the white race, and all of what Japan considers the human race. For theirs is the wrath of the gods.

Closeups at Kwajalein

Elmont Waite *

The following dispatch shows how cameramen of the Signal Corps risked their lives to record complete films of the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshalls. In this instance the "close-up" was 25 feet, the height of the fighting 550 feet. The story was told to Mr. Waite by Lieut. Marvin R. Pike, who headed "the tough and rugged force of army photographers who made a pictorial record of that invasion." Lieutenant Pike was speaking as the story continues:

"'We were scared as anyone,' the men told me, 'but we would have gone in closer than that if we could have gotten all of our subject-matter on the film.' Photographing the operation from the day the Seventh Division landed until the enemy was annihilated, we went into battle with the idea of making the best front-line pictures of the war. Unless something should happen to our film, we're sure we made them.

"We landed right after the assault waves and started pushing toward the front a few hundred yards inland. The men were right in there with the tanks and infantry for four days. They couldn't count the number of times they were fired at, but it's a lot. Better to hear bullets whizzing by than not being able to hear them. The nearest that any came to me was when a tire on a jeep a foot and a half from my leg was punctured by a Japanese sniper. It happened when I was helping lift a wounded man into the jeep, and it didn't help my nerves any."

* Correspondent for Associated Press. Quoting dispatches of February 27, March 4, 1944.
The pictures these men took are used not only by newspapers and for news reels, but are of great value to the War Department. Training films are made, and through these pictures thousands of American soldiers will learn how it's actually done in battle.

In other dispatches from the front, Mr. Waite shows that a study of the photos also enables the Navy to revise, upward or downward, the first accounts of ships lost in battle, and to verify other reports. At Truk on February 16-17, for example, when nineteen enemy vessels had been reported sunk, it was found that though four of the additional sunken ships were not identified as to type, a Navy spokesman indicated that no Japanese carriers were included. Carriers and battleships found in the Truk lagoon by reconnaissance planes February 4 were not there at the time of the attack. One of the damaged ships was "a very large transport." Later study of reconnaissance photos revealed the total damage to shipping was larger than originally announced. Other corrections were also made, showing the value of the photographic record.

In a different key is the following little story dated at Honolulu February 29th:

"Shylock," the young naval officers called their chaplain because he beat them so easily and continuously in their wardroom games as the old freighter drilled along across the Pacific. No gambling, of course, but just for fun. His specialties were monopoly and rummy.

The chaplain is Gerhard W. Friedrich, whose home is in Chicago: a Baptist pastor from Ohio who has been serving the Navy in the Aleutians. Always cheery, he wore his spectacles with an air of peering over them—although he's young and rugged. He acknowledges, as he smokes a reflective cigar, that it would be nice to go back to the Alaska mainland, after the war, live in a Quonsett hut again, but this time take up a land claim. "Great opportunity up there," he's convinced.

A Navy chaplain two years, he becomes one of the boys ten minutes after he is introduced, and the boys appreciate it. "Shylock," of course, means only that he's been accepted.

Accepted promptly, too, was the other gentleman of the cloth aboard the freighter—Bishop James C. Baker, elderly head of the California-Arizona-Nevada-Hawaii area of the Methodist Church.

The Bishop (from Los Angeles) slept with other passengers in three-decker bunks crowded into tiny structures erected on the upper deck, and didn't seem to mind. Like the physical discomforts, he ignored also the profanity of seamen. After all, they didn't know they spoke to a Bishop!