are started towards the water. Ahead of us the Japanese schooner is still burning, a mass of furious red flames, and there are explosions. The thought crosses our minds that no one could possibly live in that inferno.

On the shoreline to our rear a huge fire has broken out as a result of shelling by one of our cruisers. The cruiser is lying just off the fire ridden area, a point of land, now, and sending salvo after salvo in to shore. A dense black smoke rises from the fire, and we know a few minutes later that it is gasoline or oil, for there are red flames roaring at the foot of the smoke, and red explosions within the flames.

MARINES SILENT.

The first marines climb the ship's rali, as if they were climbing a fence, and start down to the boats. They have been talking and whistling and singing in the days preceding the climatic moment of launching the great invasion attempt, but now they are silent. There is little talking, although a few come up with the inevitable, "Well, this is it," which

Marines on the jungle-clad, Jap infested Solomons.)

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big diamonds and an automob

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