



SEA

... swim caps in 1941 are making life-saving...
 ... designers who were able to perfect the...
 ... Cap were also able to meet the needs of...
 ... self-inflating belts and vests, for waterproof...
 ... rubber medical supplies.
 ... public, liked our caps, another great division...
 ... Company activities grew and grew. Hun...
 ... men and women acquired the special skills...
 ... essential for success in this work.
 ... workers were ready when our country needed...
 ... by the mil...
 ... keep a...
 ... the

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LIFE'S COVER

Today the U.S. Navy is brilliantly defending the independence that was declared 169 years ago on the Fourth of July. The Pacific Fleet destroyers shown on LIFE's cover this week are symbols of this invincible U.S. seapower. With its great new base and headquarters on Guam (see pp. 63-75), the Navy is ready now for fresh offensives against the enemy. Last week the Japanese nervously reported that the American fleet was gathering for imminent new assaults.

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LIFE'S PICTURES

J. R. Eyerman, who took the picture essay on Guam (see pp. 63-75), has worked more steadily with the Pacific Fleet than any other civilian war photographer. He first joined a U.S. task force in March 1944 when he boarded the carrier *Lexington*. Except for a few quick trips home he has remained in combat ever since. Carrier war is his particular specialty, but when he went to Guam recently he was no stranger there, having photographed U.S. marines and soldiers reconquering the island from the Japanese just ten months earlier.

The following list, page by page, shows the source from which each picture in this issue was gathered. Where a single page is indebted to several sources, credit is recorded picture by picture (left to right, top to bottom) and line by line (lines separated by dashes) unless otherwise specified

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