

44-12

BATTLE FOR RABAU.

Allied pressure is exerted to force Japan to relinquish islands she won so easily in 1942. From Cape Gloucester and Bougainville, General MacArthur aims his forces at Rabaul. The Commanding Officer United States Marines sees Liberator bombers launching the softening-up attack on Jap positions made strong during two years of occupation.

U.S. Warships shill objectives in New Britain as Australian and American Troops converge on the Jap base at the Eastern extremity of the Island.

The Marines go into action. What they did at Tarawa, Bougainville and Makin they are called upon to do again. At selected places along the shore line they make their swift attack.

Tanks lead the way, Squads of riflemen in close formation follow in their tracks. This is how the Marines advanced inland from their beachhead during the assault on Cape Gloucester.

Heavy rains, swamps and jungle streams are natural hazards in the path of advance.

In spite of all this, and much more, the pressure on Rabaul is maintained. A fanatical enemy has to be fought under conditions of appalling difficulty.