

assembled is a considerable body of water—21½ miles long and about a dozen miles wide—enclosed by a necklet of more than 20 islands, of which Bikini is the largest. Its suitability lies in the fact that it is well out in the Pacific—190 miles east of Eniwetok, 170 north of Kwajalein—and that it is an excellent anchorage for heavy vessels. Eight channels of varying width on the southern side of the atoll give passage to the lagoon and there are 11 fathoms of water at the anchorage.

### Guinea-pig Fleet

The target fleet which will anchor in this secluded roadstead will itself be a formidable force of over a hundred vessels, comprising samples of every major type of warcraft used during the last six years. Capital ships will be represented by the old U.S. battleships Arkansas, Nevada, New York, and Pennsylvania, and the half-gutted Japanese Nagato; the U.S.S. Saratoga and Independence will represent the heavy and light carrier types; heavy cruisers present will include the Pensacola and Salt Lake City, and the German Prince Eugen (which escaped bombing so long ago in the docks at Brest, and in the dramatic dash up-Channel with the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau); the Japanese Sakawa will record the effect of blast on light cruisers, and there will be 16 destroyers and eight submarines dispersed among the heavier vessels.

At "reaction stations" aboard this armada there will be 200 goats, 200 pigs, and 4,000 white rats, in whose bodies will be measured the effects of blast and radiation. These animals will be dispersed over all battle-stations—on bridges, in turrets, and in engine-rooms. From the pigs, scientists hope to gain the most valuable information, since their skin most closely resembles that of human beings. They will be dressed

in standard naval protective clothing, and will be treated with anti-flash lotion. Some will be rigged out in newly-developed protective suits designed to cope with atomic radiation.

### Ten Miles to Ringside Seats

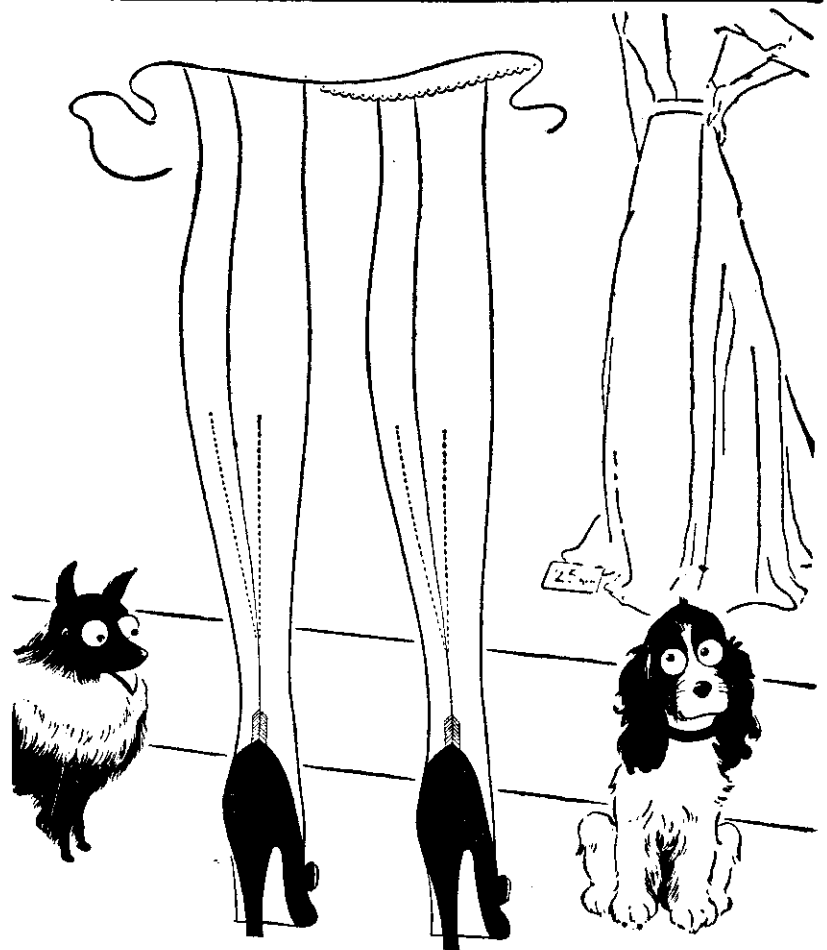
Scientists, who are more interested in radiation-sick than radiation-dead animals, believe that a large proportion of the goats, pigs and rats will survive the experiment, and the more optimistic among naval architects believe that most of the warships will also withstand at least the air-explosion, if not that at water-level. Care is being taken, however, to keep all but the guinea-pig fleet out of the zone of the blast. The most intrepid of the human observers (volunteers for the target-fleet itself having been declined) will protect themselves in shelters 10 miles from the detonation-point, and will give a first-hand account of the explosion. Viewing it from 20 miles away will be the high-ranking officers, scientists, and observers of the U.N. atomic energy committee, and possibly more than 100 members of the U.S. Congress, all equipped with polaroid goggles to prevent blindness. Opinions which have been advanced that chain-reaction may be started, causing oceans to evaporate and earthquakes to rock far-off countries are discounted by sober scientists, who deny that there is any such danger, and assert that the earth-shock will not even approximate the recent underwater 'quake off the Aleutians. But all that swims, or flies, or creeps, or grows unprotected within the aura of the explosion will die instantly.

The bombing planes which are to be used to drop the fourth atom bomb and carry out aerial observations will probably take off from air-strips on Eniwetok

(continued on next page)



NATIVES of Bikini carry their possessions aboard the LST which transported them to Rongerik



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She has taste, this girl, don't you think, Pom?

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3.6

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