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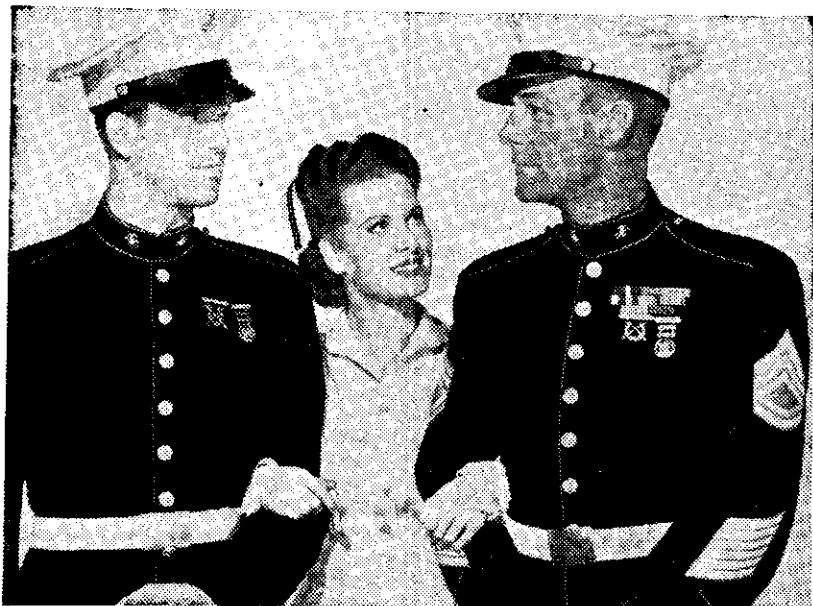
sian) Regulars despised the colonists' Militia—"who fight like Red Indians"—and at one stage actually dispersed it and would have taken Washington but for the Marines and bluejackets. Their first decisive action afloat, was, strangely enough, on the little forest-locked Lake Champlain where invading forces from Canada were held up. Thereafter they were on all the seas of the world.

In 1802 they were hoisting the still-brand-new Stars and Stripes (only thirteen of each) over a Libyan fortress of undiscoverable antiquity. In 1832 they were cleaning out a pirate stronghold in Sumatra. Arrived at 1903, they were sweltering in Abyssinia. By 1940 they were enduring cold glances in Iceland, the first American Republic and now merely the 49th State of the Union (or so its inhabitants complain). Meanwhile they had been everywhere over the two Americas from arctic Behring Strait (1891) to the antarctic Falklands (1831) and in scores of landings and "bamboo wars" elsewhere—Fiji, Formosa, Yugoslavia, Samoa, Sicily, Peking, Mexico, ("The Halls of Montezuma"), Egypt, Nicaragua, Hong Kong, Cuba, the Philippines. . . . Many of these landings and interferences were no doubt justified. Some of them were not. But the Recording Angel has probably debited the latter to the American People rather than to their humble servants, the Marines. One "invasion," which He is

paying out on with compound interest at the moment was the forcible "opening up" in 1853 to British and American trade of a Japan that for nearly 400 years had kept strictly to herself. To the humiliation of that day some of Japanese history since may be traced.

"Invasion" of Britain

And the Marines have "invaded" the British Isles, too. This is no wise-crack, nor the complaint of an I.R.A. man about Ulster, but sober historical fact. In 1778, John Paul Jones, a pirate, with a pick-me-up squadron of leaky tubs fitted out in a French port, was sinking commerce off the coast of Scotland. Leastwise he was treated as a "pirate" in that the British Government did not "recognise" the rebel flag under which he sailed. To protect himself with a hostage Captain Jones landed on the Isle of May to seize the Earl of Selkirk, his former patron, who had practically forced him into slavery on the Carolina plantations. Lord Selkirk was out, but his lady entertained the visitors. She noted in a letter that "of the two officers, one was a civil young man in a green uniform and an anchor on his buttons, which were white." That uniform of the United States Marine Corps, and its successors, has been on other British islands often since, and will be again, for better purpose and certainly with better welcome.



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