



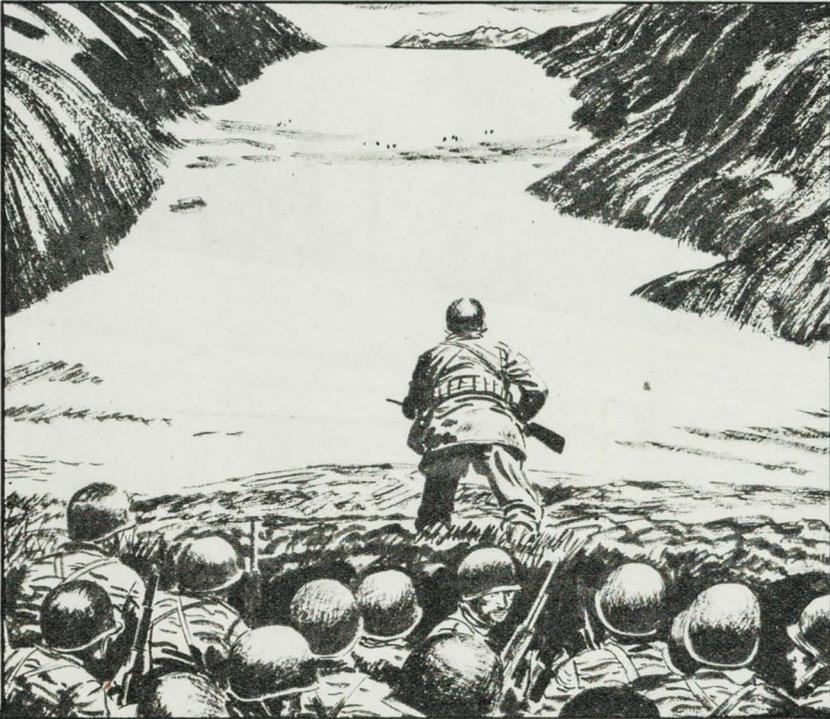
Martinez Shows the Way

On icy Attu, an American soldier demonstrates what one brave man can do

Pvt. Joe Martinez, a 23-year-old farm worker from Ault, Colo., made his name and lost his life on Attu. Joe's company landed on May 13, fought constantly for two weeks, gradually pushing the Japs back. Then, on May 26, his outfit attacked Chichagof Pass. Jap fire was so se-

vere the whole attack stalled. While the regimental commander wondered what could be done, Joe Martinez provided the answer. His heroism assured capture of the pass, which in turn helped end Jap resistance. Joe was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

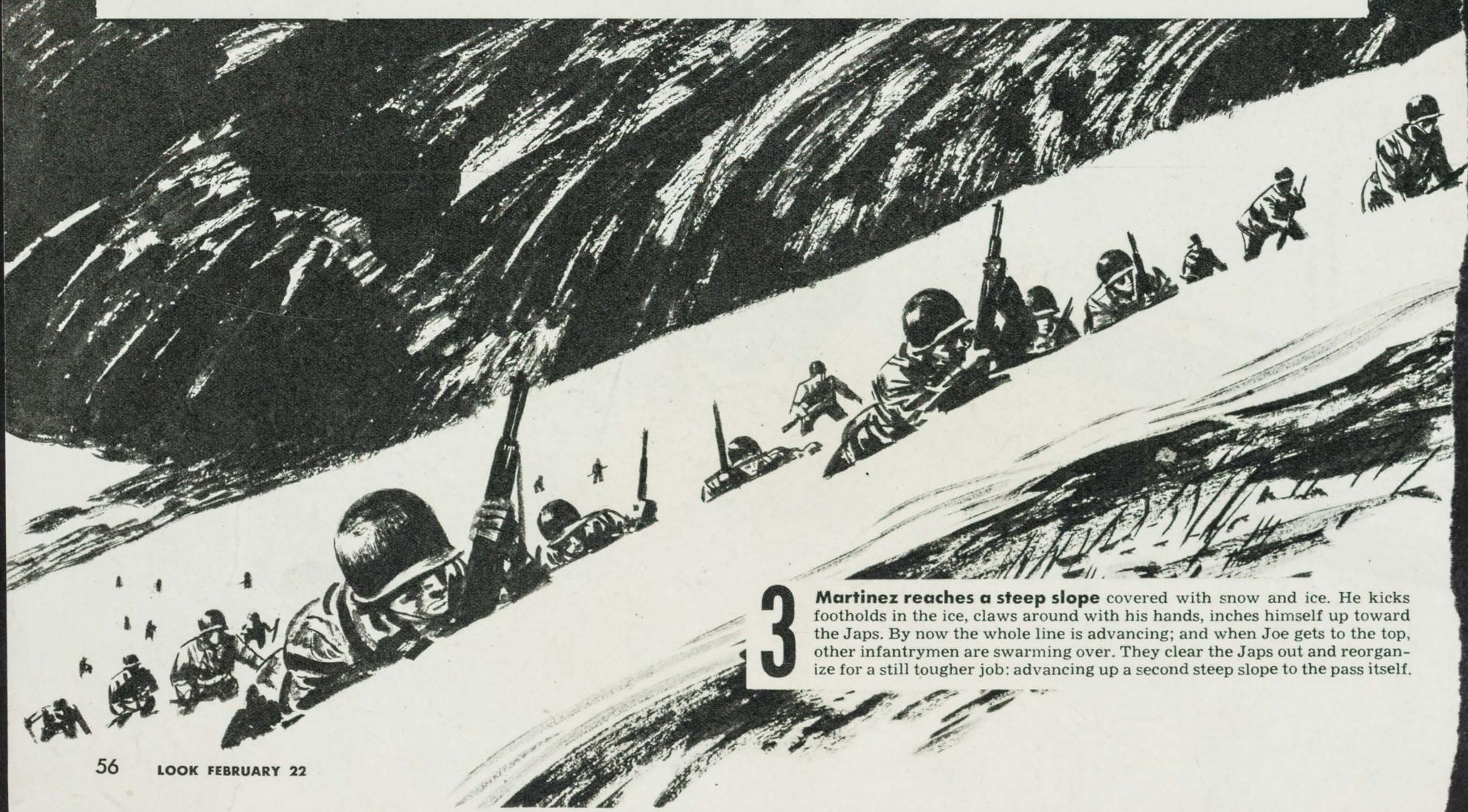
STORY BY DON WHARTON—DRAWINGS BY FRED LUDEKENS—35TH IN LOOK'S AMERICAN HEROES SERIES



1 Heavy fire from Jap foxholes and snow trenches halts two infantry companies attacking Chichagof Pass. Artillery preparations have gone on all day, but the attack is now stalled. As the regimental commander ponders means of getting it started again, Joe Martinez rises, moves forward, pauses, turns and beckons his comrades to follow.



2 Inspired by the little private (standing only five feet four, weighing only 119), a few infantrymen began moving toward the Pass. Joe advances at a half crouch, occasionally firing his Browning automatic rifle. He is under Jap fire but keeps going. He stops and again beckons the others to come on. More follow his example and leave cover.



3 Martinez reaches a steep slope covered with snow and ice. He kicks footholds in the ice, claws around with his hands, inches himself up toward the Japs. By now the whole line is advancing; and when Joe gets to the top, other infantrymen are swarming over. They clear the Japs out and reorganize for a still tougher job: advancing up a second steep slope to the pass itself.



4 The Japs hold their fire while the Americans reorganize, but open up when our troops tackle the second steep climb. The fire pins our men down and all Joe Martinez' great work seems to have come to nothing. Then the little private rises again, starts up the last steep slope, firing at the Japs and beckoning to his buddies. They press behind him and soon reach the pass.

5 Our men swarm over Chichagof Pass, rush the Jap foxholes and trenches, quickly mop up. Joe is hit while firing at Japs on the other side of the Pass. A few hours later he dies, surrounded by doctors. But the Pass is ours; the Japanese hold on Attu nears an end. And in a war in which everyone talks about machines, Joe Martinez has shown what one man can do.