

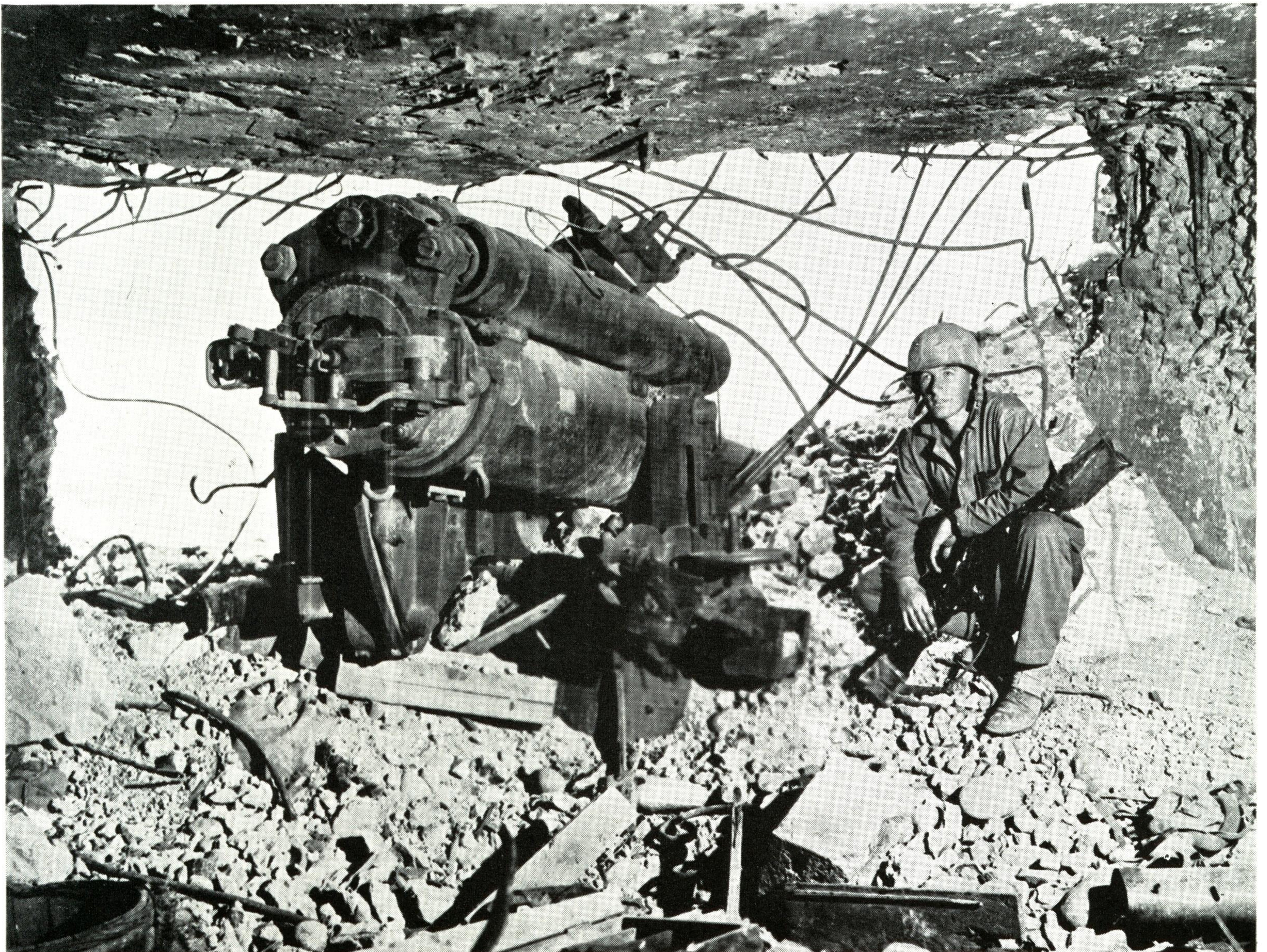
over the skyline at the southeast end of the airfield, where they established a defense on the O-I line designated in the operation order. After this objective had been reached by the assault troops, larger units that had been crouched behind the terrace on the beachhead waiting to advance, started inland towards the airfield.

But as the second assault units began moving across the open space, resistance stiffened. The Japs poured mortar, rocket and artillery fire on the entire area between the water's edge and the airfield. This fire was murderous. The range of every object on the beach had been "zeroed in" by the Japs in advance of D-Day. This hostile fire was coming from Mt. Suribachi on the left and the northern plateau on the right. The "rolling barrage" from the TENNESSEE's guns was immediately discontinued and our firing was shifted to the caves along

the beach at the foot of Mt. Suribachi and to the enemy batteries on the north flank.

Jap mortars erupted in the groups of men among the shore and among the thin lines of Marines edging up the sandy incline toward the airfield, and they suffered casualties. An enemy battery was belching death straight down the length of the beach. A land mine exploded now and then, knocking out a tank or amphibious tractor. A tank was just starting to thread its way between the beach and the airfield when it was knocked out by a Jap shell. Other tanks bogged down and tipped half over in the soft volcanic sand where they became helpless targets of Jap gunners.

Puffs of smoke and dust rose from mortar blasts creeping up and down the beach, while offshore shells splashed among the boats. Landing crafts were blown up



TENNESSEE Fire Wrecks Coast Defense Guns at Iwo. British Made, the Japs Moved Them All the Way from Singapore.