AWESOME

SECURING IWO JIMA

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Getting mail from home helped to boost the morale of the 4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima. This was their "post office." USMC Photo 111072.

<u>The battle</u> for <u>Iwo Jima</u> lasted more than a month. Rare photographs from the U.S. National Archives, and official U.S. military histories from the Department of Defense, reveal moments in this pivotal campaign:

- Carrier-based planes gave the attacking Marines <u>ground support</u> until March 11th. By that date, Army P-51s were <u>in place</u> on the island itself. The most <u>firing power</u> the Marines themselves had were 155mm Howitzers. By the time the island was secured, the big guns had fired a total of <u>43,795 rounds</u>.
- <u>Flamethrowers</u> (who were easy and valuable <u>targets</u> for the defenders) had to keep attacking Japanese pillboxes <u>and caves</u> as the Marines attempted to secure the island. Advancing troops suspected, correctly, that wrecked Japanese planes provided <u>hiding places</u> for snipers.

- <u>Marine war dogs</u> sniffed-out anyone still lurking in destroyed, or damaged, <u>caves</u>, <u>sandstone buttes</u> or manmade structures.
- While <u>60mm mortar crews</u> lobbed <u>round after round</u> (move the video forward to 5:45 for mortar animations) at enemy positions, other troops launched 4.5-inch rockets amidst peril-creating clouds of smoke and dust. Those telltale signs, of course, told the Japanese exactly where to direct their own artillery and mortars.
- <u>Weary troops</u> (from G Company, 2d Battalion, 24th Marines) rested behind the "protection" of a Sherman tank. Although most of the American attackers were boys, between the ages of 17-19, they grew up quickly amidst the relentless, deadly Japanese firepower.
- Charles H. Waterhouse, who retired from the Marines as a Colonel, was a <u>wounded</u> Private First Class during the battle for Iwo Jima. His painting, <u>Silence in the Gorge</u>, is a moving tribute to the impossible job Marines were expected to do. *Flotsam and Jetsam* is the title he chose to depict his lost sergeant, killed as he <u>attempted</u> to come ashore.
- Nearly a month after the flag-raising on Suribachi, the <u>Marines planted</u> an American flag on Hill 165, <u>Kitano Point</u>, at the north end of the island. As the official campaign ended, on the 26th of March, few troops had smiles on their faces as <u>they displayed</u> captured Japanese flags.

Before D-Day, Lt. General Holland Smith had said of the Iwo Jima battle:

It's a tough proposition. That's why my Marines are here.

After the battle was over, Howlin' Mad (Gen. Smith's nickname) <u>surveyed the damage</u>. His predictions had been deadly accurate. Iwo Jima, for him personally, was the last battle of his career.

Many of his men were Congressional Medal of Honor winners - the highest citation awarded by the United States - for their bravery at Iwo Jima.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SECURING-IWO-JIMA-Flags-Of-Our-Fathers

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SECURING-IWO-IIMA-Flags-Of-Our-Fathers

Media Stream



Carrier-based Planes Give Marines Ground Support

US Navy photo, from *Iwo Jima: Amphibious Epic*, United States Marine Corps Historical Monograph, by Lt. Col. Whitman S. Bartley, USMC.

Image located in Chapter V - "Into the Main Defenses (D+1 - D=5)," at page 84.

PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Carrier-based-Planes-Give-Marines-Ground-Support



Army P-51 Planes on Iwo Jima

Image (at page 585) fromChapter 19 - "Iwo Jima" - of <u>The Pacific: Matterhorn to Nagasaki, June 1944 to August 1945</u>. The work is Volume Five, of <u>The Army Air Forces in World War II.</u>

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Army-P-51-Planes-on-lwo-Jima



155mm Howitzers, the Most Firing Power for the Marines

US Navy photo, from *Iwo Jima: Amphibious Epic*, United States Marine Corps Historical Monograph, by Lt. Col. Whitman S. Bartley, USMC.

Image located in Chapter VII - "5th Division on the Left (D+6 - D+19)," at page 134.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/155mm-Howitzers-the-Most-Firing-Power-for-the-Marines-



Flamethrowers Used by Marines in Iwo Jima

USMC Photo 111006, from the Introduction to *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired). Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flamethrowers-Used-by-Marines-in-lwo-Jima



Flamethrowers - Easy Targets at Iwo Jima

Photo from the Colonel William P. McCahill Collection, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 24. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flamethrowers-Easy-Targets-at-Iwo-Jima



Flamethrowers - Marines Attack Iwo Jima Caves

USMC photo 110599, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 48. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flamethrowers-Marines-Attack-lwo-lima-Caves



Iwo Jima Snipers - Hiding Behind Ruined Planes

Photo from the Marine Corps Historical Collection, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 23. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/lwo-Jima-Snipers-Hiding-Behind-Ruined-Planes













Marine War Dogs - Sniffing Out Hidden Defenders

US Navy photo, from *Iwo Jima: Amphibious Epic*, United States Marine Corps Historical Monograph, by Lt. Col. Whitman S. Bartley, USMC.

Image located in Chapter VII - "5th Division on the Left (D+6 - D+19)," at page 139. PD $\,$

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marine-War-Dogs-Sniffing-Out-Hidden-Defenders

Damaged Cave in Iwo Jima

U.S. Marine Corps photo, from *Iwo Jima: Amphibious Epic*, United States Marine Corps Historical Monograph, by Lt. Col. Whitman S. Bartley, USMC.

Image located in Chapter IX - "The Final Phase," at page 180.

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Damaged-Cave-in-lwo-Jima

Sandstone Buttes at Iwo - Finding Hidden Defenders

U.S. Marine Corps photo, from *Iwo Jima: Amphibious Epic*, United States Marine Corps Historical Monograph, by Lt. Col. Whitman S. Bartley, USMC.

Image located in Chapter IX - "The Final Phase," at page 181.

PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sandstone-Buttes-at-Iwo-Finding-Hidden-Defenders

60mm Mortar Crews at Iwo Jima

USMC photo 142845, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 43. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/60mm-Mortar-Crews-at-lwo-Jima

Iwo Jima Smoke and Dust - Targeting Marines

USMC photo 111100, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 42. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/lwo-lima-Smoke-and-Dust-Targeting-Marines

Iwo Jima - Weary Troops Rest Behind Tanks

USMC photo 109666, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 35. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/lwo-Jima-Weary-Troops-Rest-Behind-Tanks

Portrait of a Wounded Man at Iwo Jima

From the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 22. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Portrait-of-a-Wounded-Man-at-Iwo-Jima



Silence in the Gorge - Painted by C. Waterhouse

From the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 2. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Silence-in-the-Gorge-Painted-by-C.-Waterhouse



Flotsam and Jetsam - Death on Iwo Jima's Shore

From the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 18. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flotsam-and-Jetsam-Death-on-Iwo-Jima-s-Shore



Marines Claim Territory on Iwo Jima

U.S. Marine Corps photo, from *Iwo Jima: Amphibious Epic*, United States Marine Corps Historical Monograph, by Lt. Col. Whitman S. Bartley, USMC.

Image located in Chapter IX - "The Final Phase," at page 185.

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marines-Claim-Territory-on-lwo-Jima



Kitano Point, North Part of Iwo Jima - Landing Plan

Iwo Jima Landing map, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 13. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kitano-Point-North-Part-of-Iwo-Jima-Landing-Plan



Iwo Jima - Marines with Captured Japanese Flags

Photo from U.S. Marine Corps Historical Collection, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 47. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/lwo-Jima-Marines-with-Captured-Japanese-Flags



Lt. Gen. Holland Smith - Surveys Iwo Jima, Post-Battle

U.S. Marine Corps photo 110635, featured in *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*, by Col. Joseph H. Alexander, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), at page 51. Part of the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*.

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View this asset at:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lt.-Gen.-Holland-Smith-Surveys-lwo-Jima-Post-Battle}$





Iwo Jima - Mortar Attacks

Clip from *To the Shores of Iwo Jima*, described above, online courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/lwo-Jima-Mortar-Attacks

To the Shores of Iwo Jima

To the Shores of Iwo Jima, Part 1 **Producer:** Milton Sperling

Production Company: U.S. Government Office of War Information

Editing: Warner Brothers

Video online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives and Archive.org.

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/To-the-Shores-of-Iwo-Jima