

Iwo Jima

36 Days of Pacific Hell



The most famous photograph of World War Two. Associated press cameraman Joe Rosenthal's superb shot of Marines raising the flag on the summit of Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima on 23 February 1945. Three of the six flag-raisers would die on Iwo Jima.

1. Why was Iwo Jima strategically important?
2. Why were the Japanese a very tough opponent?
3. What was the Japanese leader, General Kuribayashi's, plan for the defense of Iwo Jima?
4. The Americans assume Iwo Jima can support how many Japanese troops? How many were actually there?
5. How long was the attack on Iwo Jima expected to last?
6. What were the Marines fighting besides the Japanese?
7. Why was Mt. Suribachi so important?

8. Why did General Kuribayashi want the U.S. soldiers' death toll to be so horrific?
9. Why were the Japanese rarely seen?
10. What did the Japanese do during the nights?
11. What new weapon becomes key in the advance across Iwo Jima?
12. Why was the job of flamethrower operator so dangerous?
13. What was the unofficial oath of the Marines?
14. How do the Marines discover tunnel openings?
15. What happens on 23 February on the summit of Mt Suribachi? What effect does this have on the U.S. soldiers' morale?
16. Why is the northern half of the island so difficult to capture?
17. What happens on Day 14, that seems to make the attack on Iwo Jima worthwhile?
18. How many days did it take to eliminate Japanese resistance on Iwo Jima?
19. How many Americans were killed in the capture of Iwo Jima?
20. How many U.S. airmen would have perished without the capture of Iwo Jima?