

**Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima:
A Triumph Arising from Tragedy**

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Historical Paper

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"Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

- Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, 1945.¹

Seventy-four years ago, on February 23, 1945, in the Western Pacific Ocean, six U.S Marines strained forward in unity, firmly planting a large American flag atop Mount Suribachi, the highest point of the Japanese island of Iwo Jima [Appendix A]. Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, captured this historic moment on film — a photo that ultimately became one of the most recognizable images in American history.²

Raising a flag over another country's land is commonly considered a sign of victory, marking the conclusion of a conflict. However, underneath the triumph depicted in Rosenthal's image, there was also tragedy: in just five days, American casualties climbed to 6,000 while Japanese resistance remained fierce.³ For the next thirty-one days, over 70,000 American forces landed on the unremitting hell known as Iwo Jima, and more than 20,000 of them would be injured or killed.⁴ The heroic raising of the flag during this tragic onslaught framed Rosenthal's photo into an inspiring triumph. The flag-raising not only sparked American morale during a difficult period of war but also shaped the Marine Corps' core values and eventually became an iconic symbol of American patriotism and heroism.

The War in the Pacific

On December 7, 1941, Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor initiated war in the Pacific Theater. While Japanese forces continued rapid expansion in the Pacific, the United

¹ Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Fleet Communique No.300. US Navy, 16 March 1945.

² Wheeler, Richard. *Iwo*. New York, Lippincott & Crowell, 1980. p.163.

³ Morehouse, Clifford P. *The Iwo Jima Operation*. Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch, G-3 Division, US Marines Corps, 1946 p.166D.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p.154A.

States began accelerating vessel production to meet the threat.⁵ In early June 1942, the U.S. Navy won its first major victory over Japan at the Battle of Midway. This turning point allowed the United States to halt the Japanese offense in the Pacific, enabling the U.S. to start weakening Japanese superiority in the air and sea.⁶ The U.S military launched the “Island Hopping” campaign to take control of key Pacific islands that were occupied by Japanese forces until American bombers could reach the Japanese mainland [Appendix B]. Island hopping also allowed the Americans to cut off Japanese supply lines to neighboring islands, leaving them to wither.⁷ This strategy heavily relied on the Marines’ ability to sail to those islands and launch frontal amphibious assaults.⁸ By 1945, the Marines had already taken a series of Pacific islands, leaving Iwo Jima in the center of America’s crosshairs.

Impregnable Fortress

Located 750 miles south of Tokyo, Iwo Jima, an eight-square-mile volcanic island, held strategic importance to both the Americans and the Japanese.⁹ Prior to the invasion of Iwo Jima, the Japanese had built three airfields, using them to harass American naval forces and alert nearby islands of incoming planes.¹⁰ Capturing Iwo Jima would allow Americans to eliminate enemy early warning systems, protect the operation of B-29s, and provide an emergency landing

⁵ Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit: The Memoirs of Major Yoshitaka Horie and the Battle of Iwo Jima*. Edited by Robert D. Eldridge and Charles W. Tatum, Annapolis, Naval Institute Press, 2011. p.7.

⁶ "The Battle of Midway." *National WWII Museum*, www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/battle-midway. Accessed 19 Jan. 2019.

⁷ "Island Hopping: Footholds Across the Pacific." *National WWII Museum*. www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/exhibits/road-tokyo/island-hopping. Accessed 19 Jan. 2019.

⁸ Burgan, Michael. *Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*. Mankato, Compass Point, 2011. p.18.

⁹ Buell, Hal. *Uncommon Valor, Common Virtue: Iwo Jima and the Photograph That Captured America*. New York, Penguin, 2006. p.8.

¹⁰ Ibid.

field for damaged bombers.¹¹ In order to get closer to the Japanese mainland, taking Iwo Jima was a must. Also recognizing the value of the island, the Japanese Imperial Headquarters assigned Lieutenant General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, a samurai descendant, to lead over 22,000 men in defending the island.¹² Learning from the prior battles of Tarawa, Saipan, and Guam, Kuribayashi knew that the traditional frontal beach defense without air and naval support would be ineffective against a stronger military force with hundreds of naval guns and aircraft.¹³ Kuribayashi implemented a new plan: instead of defending *on* Iwo Jima, the Japanese would defend from *inside* the island.¹⁴ Since June 1944, Kuribayashi had selected the best Japanese mining engineers to design underground fortifications. In just six months, using solid rocks and concrete, the Japanese built a sixteen-mile-long system of tunnels and caves that linked bunkers, pillboxes, and gun emplacements across Iwo Jima, transforming the tiny island into an impregnable fortress.¹⁵

A Defense of Desperation

In addition to the invulnerable underground network, the Japanese warrior's philosophy of fighting to death without surrender is another reason that made Iwo Jima such a fierce and tragic battle.¹⁶ Well aware that his troops would hopelessly fight alone with no support,

¹¹ Orsland, Avin. Email interview. 11 Mar. 2019.

¹² Morehouse, Clifford P. *The Iwo Jima Operation*. p.8.

¹³ Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit*. p.3.

¹⁴ Robertson, Breanne. Interview. Quantico, Virginia, Marine Corps History Division, Marine Corps University. 23 Jan. 2019.

¹⁵ Rogers, David J. Japanese Defenses and Fortifications Tarawa, Iwo Jima And Okinawa 1943 -1945. University of Missouri-Rolla, web.mst.edu/~rogersda/umrcourses/ge342/Japanese%20Island%20Defenses%201943-45.pdf. Accessed 6 Jan. 2019.

¹⁶ Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit*. p.2.

Kuribayashi aimed to prolong the American advancement and inflict as many casualties as possible.¹⁷ To ensure mental preparedness and determination for the upcoming battle, he announced “Courageous Battle Vows” for his men to abide by:

- We shall infiltrate the enemy and slaughter them.
- We shall kill the enemy with a one-shot, one-kill approach.
- We shall not die until we killed ten of the enemy.
- We shall harass the enemy with guerrilla tactics until the last man.¹⁸

Additionally, Kuribayashi ordered his men to refrain from large-scale suicidal banzai charges executed in previous battles.¹⁹ Both physically and mentally, the Japanese were ready for the American invasion.

The Landing

While Kuribayashi and his men were busy underground fortifying their defensive positions, the U.S military also prepared for the invasion in full swing. Ten weeks prior to the invasion, Army Air Forces bombed Iwo Jima daily to make the Marines’ landing easier.²⁰ However, hidden deep in their tunnels, the Japanese suffered little from the bombings. To the Americans, it seemed like no one on the island could possibly survive the raids. On top of this incorrect assumption, U.S. planners underestimated Japanese defense and overestimated

¹⁷ Warfare History Network. "Iwo Jima: The Most Horrific of All World War II Battles?" *National Interest*, 15 Dec. 2018, nationalinterest.org/iwo-jima-most-horrific-all-world-war-ii-battles-38897. Accessed 13 Jan. 2019.

¹⁸ Kakehashi, Kumiko, and Giles Murray. *So Sad to Fall in Battle*. p.39.

¹⁹ Butler, John A. "Iwo Jima." University of Southern Florida, 2012, Tampa. Lecture.

²⁰ Smith, Holland M., and Percy Finch. *Coral and Brass*. New York, Scribner, 1949. p.237.

American technological and manpower superiority,²¹ believing Iwo Jima would fall in just a few days.²²

On the morning of February 19, 1945, 30,000 Marines — many of whom had not reached twenty years of age — began landing on Iwo Jima, with the Fourth Division on the right, the Fifth Division on the left, and the Third Division in corps reserve [Appendix B].²³ The Fourth Division attempted to seize the first Japanese airfield and advance to the northeast while the Fifth Division focused on taking Mount Suribachi at the southwest end of the island.²⁴

As the first waves of Marines landed on the sandy terrain of Iwo Jima, the Japanese, with guns ready, silently hid in their tunnels and observed the Marines assembling on the beaches. Thousands of Marines crowded the lower beaches, completely exposed to their enemies.²⁵ The initial lack of enemy resistance falsely implied a “fairly easy” landing.²⁶ Suddenly, a barrage of deadly ordnance and bullets rained down on American forces from camouflaged positions of Mount Suribachi and other high areas of the island. In just a few minutes, the beachhead became choked with damaged vehicles and cluttered with dead bodies.²⁷ “At that time, I guess the best way to describe it was, ‘all hell broke loose.’” Warren Musch, a retired First Lieutenant reflected, “my first impression when I hit the beach on the island, I could reach out and touch a dead Marine with my left hand, another with my right hand.”²⁸ With nowhere to take cover, the

²¹ Burrell, Robert S. *The Ghosts of Iwo Jima*. College Station, Texas A&M UP, 2006. p.XVII.

²² Orsland, Alvin. "Hell on Iwo Jima – One Marine's Story." *Armchair General*, 8 Mar. 2010, armchairgeneral.com/hell-on-iwo-jima-one-marines-story.htm. Accessed 7 Apr. 2019.

²³ Lucas, Jack and D. K. Drum. *Indestructible: The Unforgettable Story of a Marine Hero at the Battle of Iwo Jima*. Cambridge, Da Capo, 2007. p.85.

²⁴ Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit*. p.101.

²⁵ Wells, Keith. *"Give Me Fifty Marines Not Afraid to Die": Iwo Jima*. Abilene, Quality Publications, 1995. p.150.

²⁶ McLaughlin, Howard N., and Raymond C. Miller. *From the Volcano to the Gorge*. p.14.

²⁷ Lucas, Jack and D. K. Drum. *Indestructible*. p.86.

²⁸ "Interview with Warren Musch." Interview by Mark DePue. *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*, 18 Oct. 2012, www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/oralhistory/VeteransRemember/worldwarII/Documents/MuschWar/Musch_War_4FNL.pdf. Accessed 7 Apr. 2019.

Marines were pinned down by mortar fire and artillery from invisible enemies. By the end of the first day, 562 Marines were dead or missing and 1,963 were wounded.²⁹ Every thirty-five seconds on Iwo Jima, one Marine was injured or killed.

The Flag-raising

The Americans learned that the fight against the Japanese was not going to be as easy as previously presumed. Kuribayashi's resourceful defense forced the Marines to move in closer to take out Japanese positions. Mount Suribachi, a key defensive point that gave the Japanese the advantage to look over the entire island and perform precise mortar attacks, became the most critical position to take.³⁰ While Japanese resistance grew more aggressive, the 28th Marine Regiment slowly advanced to the base of the volcanic mountain at a rate of 200 yards per day, utilizing flamethrowers and grenades against enemies hidden in pillboxes and bunkers.³¹

On February 23, Colonel Chandler Johnson, commander of the 28th Regiment, ordered a platoon of forty Marines, accompanied by *Leatherneck* magazine photographer Sergeant Louis Lowery, to secure the summit of Suribachi and raise an American flag atop it.³² At about 10:30 A.M., the Stars and Stripes fluttered over the volcano. "The flag's up! The flag's up!" The Marines down below started to cheer while the ships anchored on the island blared their horns and whistles.³³ In Coast Guardsman Chet Hack's words: "Talk about patriotism! The uproar almost shook the sky."³⁴ This emotional moment was captured by Lowery with his camera

²⁹ Morehouse, Clifford P. *The Iwo Jima Operation*. p.142.

³⁰ McLaughlin, Howard N., and Raymond C. Miller. *From the Volcano to the Gorge: Getting the Job Done on Iwo Jima*. Standish, Tower Pub., 2010. p.34.

³¹ Alexander, Joseph. *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*. Washington D.C., Marine Corps Historical Foundation. National Parks Services, www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/npswapa/extcontent/usmc/pcn-190-003131-00/pcn-190-003131-00/sec8.htm. Accessed 7 Apr. 2019.

³² Burgan, Michael. *Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*. p.7.

³³ Hammond, Ivan. E-mail interview. 19 Feb. 2019.

³⁴ Wheeler, Richard. *Iwo*. p.159.

[Appendix D]. With the flag flying over the mountain, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal said to the commander of the assault, General Holland Smith: “Holland, the raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.”³⁵ However, Johnson wanted a larger banner to replace the first flag so everybody on the island could see it. A few hours later, six Marines — Michael Strank, Harlon Block, Franklin Sousley, Ira Hayes, Rene Gagnon, and Harold Schultz — hoisted up the larger flag on top of Suribachi,³⁶ this time, Joe Rosenthal pressed the shutter and snapped the most famous photo of World War II.³⁷

The two American flags raised on Mount Suribachi each had their own unique significance. Although not as well known as the second one, the first flag-raising held significant emotional value to the Marines on Iwo Jima. It meant that Suribachi, one of the most threatening enemy positions, was finally in American hands.³⁸ The flag-raising represented gratitude and honor to the Marines who had sacrificed their lives to destroy a pillbox, rescue a comrade, or inch closer to the enemy’s position. It gave an immeasurable morale boost to the Americans still fighting, igniting their hope for victory. General Smith wrote: “This vision of triumph had an electrifying effect on all our forces ashore and afloat. We were in a mood for victory and this glorious spectacle was the spark.”³⁹ The second flag-raising, however, continues to have a lasting legacy, defining Marine Corps values and inspiring the American public. Rosenthal’s photo won the Pulitzer Prize and has become one of the most legendary photographs of all time.

³⁵ Smith, Holland M., and Percy Finch. *Coral and Brass*. p.261.

³⁶ "USMC Statement on Iwo Jima Flag Raiser." *Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication, Headquarters Marine Corps*, 23 June 2016, www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/810457/usmc-statement-on-iwo-jima-flagraisers/. Accessed 9 Apr. 2019.

³⁷ "Joe Rosenthal and the Flag-raising on Iwo Jima." The Pulitzer Prizes, www.pulitzer.org/article/joe-rosenthal-and-flag-raising-iwo-jima. Accessed 14 Jan. 2019.

³⁸ McLaughlin, Howard N., and Raymond C. Miller. *From the Volcano to the Gorge*. p.231.

³⁹ Smith, Holland M., and Percy Finch. *Coral and Brass*. p.180.

After the Flag-raising

The capture of Mount Suribachi represented a breakthrough for the Americans — the sight of the flag on the mountain implied that the entire island would soon be taken. However, it was only “the end of the beginning.”⁴⁰ The fierce resistance driven by the Japanese tradition of “fighting to death” and “no surrender” tenaciously continued.⁴¹ The brutal battle raged on for another month, while all three Marine divisions unrelentingly pushed through to the north.⁴² “Every cave, every pillbox, every bunker was an individual battle, where Japanese and Marines fought hand to hand to the death.” General Smith recalled.⁴³ No matter how miserable the conditions were, neither side would give up.

Even though the Marines encountered massive challenges with the Japanese terrain and defense, they still held advantages, such as a plentiful amount of supplies and continuous air and sea support. On the other hand, with no outside aid, the Japanese struggled underground with shortages of ammunition, water, and food. Additionally, living conditions inside the caves were inhuman — cockroaches and flies swarmed the soldiers and temperatures reached up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.⁴⁴ On March 18, in a letter sent to the neighboring island Chichi Jima, Kuribayashi declared: “Overwhelmed by material superiority we have fought with little more than our empty hands... There is no more ammunition and no more water.”⁴⁵ Rather than surrendering in the final few days, the remaining Japanese either committed suicide or attempted a final counter-attack. On March 26, 1945, the island of Iwo Jima was finally secured.

⁴⁰ McLaughlin, Howard N., and Raymond C. Miller. *From the Volcano to the Gorge*. p.vii.

⁴¹ Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit*. p.117.

⁴² Wheeler, Richard. *Iwo*. p.165.

⁴³ Smith, Holland M., and Percy Finch. *Coral and Brass*. p.269.

⁴⁴ Kakehashi, Kumiko, and Giles Murray. *So Sad to Fall in Battle*. p.27.

⁴⁵ Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit*. p.105.

At the end of the battle, U.S. casualties included 6,140 men killed and nearly 18,000 wounded. The Japanese lost approximately 22,000 soldiers, while only 216 were taken prisoner.⁴⁶ Nearly a third of all Marines who died in WWII lost their lives on Iwo Jima.⁴⁷ The Battle of Iwo Jima was by far the deadliest battle in the history of the United States Marine Corps.⁴⁸

Legacy

From the first day of landing, reports of the distressing battle dominated U.S. newspaper headlines. The devastating casualties on the island horrified the American public, causing many to question the necessity of the battle and effectiveness of the military strategies.⁴⁹ However, when Rosenthal's photo hit the Sunday newspapers on February 25, 1945, the nation quickly responded by uniting in patriotism [Appendix E]. The hope and optimism portrayed in the image were exactly what the Americans were longing for. Instantly, the photo became a media sensation. It was reprinted millions of times, emblazoned on postage stamps, and featured in Hollywood films.⁵⁰ The Seventh War Bond Drive used the photograph in posters, collecting \$26 billion towards the war effort — the largest amount among the eight national war bonds and nearly double the projected total.⁵¹ In November of 1954, the Marines Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, unveiled a seventy-eight-foot-tall bronze sculpture of the flag-raising to honor the Marines who sacrificed their lives for the country.⁵² Through this publicity, the Marine Corps gained tremendous public support and respect. This veneration helped the Marine Corps

⁴⁶ Alexander, Joseph. *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*. Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

⁴⁷ Ringle, Ken. "The Uphill Battle." *The Washington Post*, 19 Feb. 1995, www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1995/02/19/the-uphill-battle/f5265c77-b6fc-42cd-b2e1-eea6ca4d4677/?utm_term=.191bba9026a1. Accessed 14 Jan. 2019.

⁴⁸ Alexander, Joseph. *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*. Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

⁴⁹ Vedder, James S. *Surgeon on Iwo: Up Front with the 27th Marines*. Novato, Presidio Press, 1984. p.221.

⁵⁰ Robertson, Breanne. Interview. 23 Jan. 2019.

⁵¹ Kuz, Martin. "Flag Raising Photo Secured Marine Corps' Future Forever." *Stars and Stripes*, 23 Feb. 2015, media.stripes.com/i/IwoJima70/tablet/iwo-jima--page-3.html. Accessed 11 May 2019. p.3.

⁵² Burgan, Michael. *Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*. p.47.

survive the post-war defense budget slash and elevated the Corps from the nation's smallest military branch to the most elite.⁵³ In an interview, Rosenthal stated that “[it was] the Marines [who] took Iwo Jima.”⁵⁴ It was the Marines who continued to move forward under the hail of enemy gunfire; it was the Marines who covered grenades with their bodies to save comrades’ life.⁵⁵ “It was *all* the Marines who raised the flags on Mount Suribachi.”⁵⁶ Rosenthal’s photo represents fundamental Marine values: strength, bravery, sacrifice, teamwork, and getting the job done. Iwo Jima proved “how the Marines did change and adapt to adverse and unknown condition to finally win — never giving up.”⁵⁷ Twenty-seven Congressional Medals of Honor, the country’s most prestigious military decoration, were awarded for Iwo Jima — more than any other battle in history — with twenty-two medals going to Marines.⁵⁸

More than seventy years have passed since the conclusion of the Battle of Iwo Jima. As memories fade away and movies gradually disappear, Rosenthal’s flag-raising photograph remains an enduring icon. In his photo, the debris and rough terrain underneath the Marines boots symbolize the cruelty and struggle of war, while the movement of the six Marines straining together to raise the Stars and Stripes epitomizes American hope and determination for victory. The photo conveys the true experience of Iwo Jima: a frontal amphibious assault against an indestructible defense, a tragic loss of human lives to both sides, and an undeniable exhibit of Marine valor.

⁵³ Kuz, Martin. "Flag Raising Photo Secured Marine Corps' Future Forever." *Stars and Stripes*. p.3.

⁵⁴ Burgan, Michael. *Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*. p.43.

⁵⁵ Lucas, Jack and D. K. Drum. *Indestructible*. p.85.

⁵⁶ Elliott, Ray. E-mail interview. 7 May 2019.

⁵⁷ Musch, Warren. E-mail interview. 18 Feb. 2019.

⁵⁸ Iwo Jima Fact Sheet. New Orleans. *National WW2 Museum*, www.nationalww2museum.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/iwo-jima-fact-sheet.pdf. Accessed 11 Oct. 2018.

Despite being the deadliest conflict in Marine Corps history, the Battle of Iwo Jima was a remarkable triumph for the Marines and the American people. The flag-raising on Mount Suribachi transformed the initial public horror over casualties and the controversy over military planning errors into national pride and unity. By invigorating American morale to win the Pacific War, the photo has permanently become an icon for the Marine Corps. Today, this immortal image remains a symbol of American patriotism and heroism that continues to inspire the entire nation.

Appendix A



Photograph of Flag-raising on Iwo Jima, 02/23/1945 (NWDNS-80-G-413988; National Archives Identifier: 520748); General Photographic File of the Department of Navy, 1943 - 1958; General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1804–1958; Record Group 80; National Archives.

Original photograph by Joseph Rosenthal.

This is the original photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal of the six Marines raising the flag over Mount Suribachi. The photograph won the Pulitzer Prize and became the most reproduced photo ever. The Marines who raised the flag are Michael Strank, Harlon Block, Franklin Sousley, Ira Hayes, Rene Gagnon, and Harold Schultz.

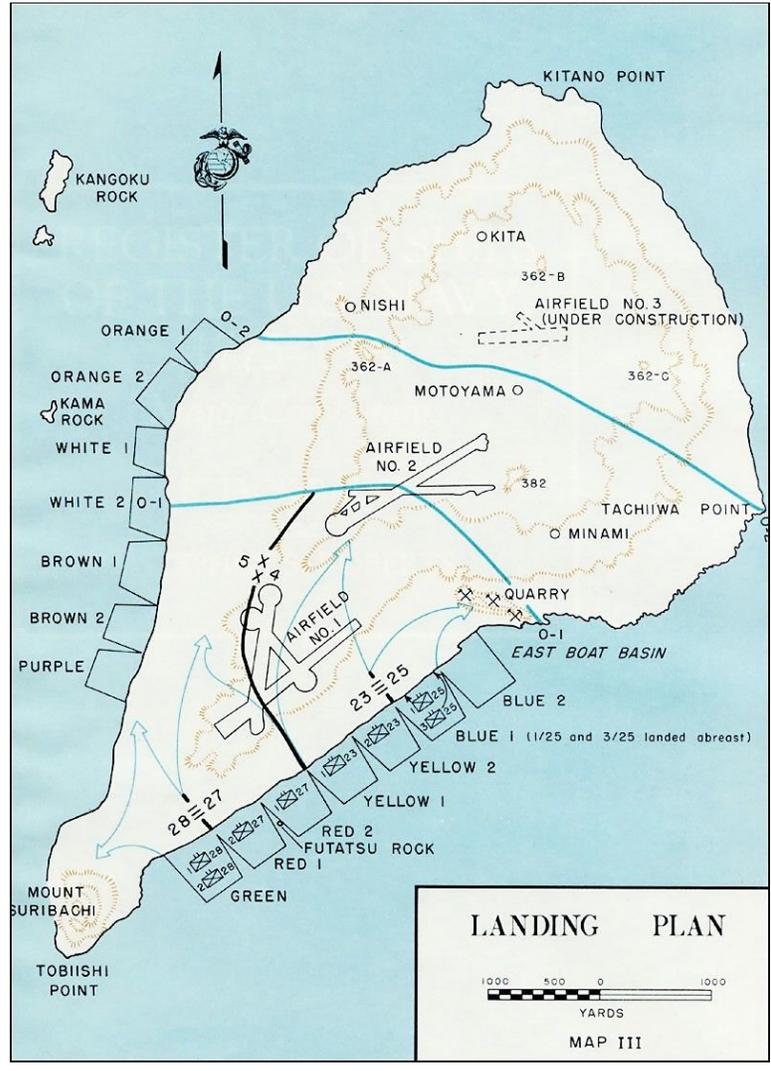
Appendix B



Pacific Battles. *National Parks Services*, www.nps.gov/valr/learn/historyculture/pacific-battles.htm. Accessed 19 Jan. 2019.

This is the map of America's "island hopping" campaign in the Pacific Ocean. The campaign started at Midway and then went to Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. Next, the Americans invaded Tarawa and Kwajalein. After these two key battles, the Americans invaded Guam and Saipan, and then finally Iwo Jima. The only battle after Iwo Jima was Okinawa.

Appendix C



Iwo Jima Landing Strategy. U.S Department of Defense, archive.defense.gov/home/features/2015/0315_iwojima/. Accessed 16 Jan. 2019.

This is the landing plan for the Marines on Iwo Jima. From left to right, the beaches were designated GREEN, RED, YELLOW, and BLUE. The 5th Division would deploy the 28th Marines on the left flank, over GREEN Beach, the 27th Marines over RED. The 4th Division would deploy the 23rd Marines over YELLOW Beach and the 25th Marines over BLUE Beach. The 3rd division would be held in reserve.

Appendix D



Lowery, Louis. First Flag Raising on Mount Suribachi. 23 Feb. 1945. The Historic Present, thehistoricpresent.com/2015/02/05/raising-the-flag-on-iwo-jima-was-not-a-fake/. Accessed 8 Apr. 2019.

This is the first flag raising photo taken by Louis Lowery, a *Leatherneck Magazine* combat photographer. Although this photo does not convey the same energy as Rosenthal's photo, it boosted the morale of the Marines on Iwo Jima.

Appendix E

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION
 Sunny with moderate winds.
 Temperature Yesterday—Max. 64; Min. 34
 Today today, 1:10 A. M.; Snow, 6.43 P. M.

Section 1

NEWS INDEX, PAGE 19, THIS SECTION

VOL. XCIV, No. 31,809.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1945.

TEEN CENTS

**AMERICANS DRIVE FOUR MILES BEYOND THE ROER;
 OUR CARRIER AIRCRAFT SLASH AT TOKYO AGAIN;
 MARINES WIN HALF OF IWO'S CENTRAL AIRFIELD**

WMC DASHES HOPES OF EASED CURFEW; MAYOR ACTS TODAY

He is Expected to Announce Order to Guide Cafes—Latter to Drop 25,000

LICENSE REFUND PLEA SET

Clubs Packed by Many Having Last Fling and Big Crowds Are Due Tonight

Hopes fostered by operators of night clubs and other amusement places that tomorrow night's midnight "curfew" might be eased to 1 A. M. received a jolt yesterday when the War Manpower Commission, in Washington, decreed that the "request" for midnight closing as originally announced by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes would not be altered.

Meanwhile, as night spots were packed and prepared for larger crowds tonight for last-minute flings, Mayor La Guardia stood his ground on the position he took Friday that the closing time for New York City places would remain the same until he had an opportunity to study the WMC edict.

The Mayor will confer with Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, regional director of the WMC, at 11 o'clock this morning in City Hall and is expected to make some definite announcement in his weekly broadcast over WNYC, city-owned station.

A survey of midtown night clubs, both in the Broadway area and on the East Side, showed they were doing a capacity business, but the managers were unanimous in declaring that capacity business had been the rule on Saturday night for some time past. All said, however, that reservations and telephone queries indicated larger crowds than usual tonight.

Tavern Owners Accuse Drys

Tavern owners throughout the city lined up with Billy Rose, owner of the Diamond Horseshoe, who had charged that the "curfew" was an "outrageous move on the part of the drys to force prohibition back on the country."

Joseph Maguire, president of the United Liquor Dealers of Manhattan, tavern owners' group, said last night that at least 25,000 persons employed in the city's 7,500 taverns will get "punk" dry tonight.

After a meeting of his organization and the Bronx Tavern Owners Association, headed by John Ryan, 221 Broadway, Mr. Maguire said a resolution was adopted characterizing the Byrnes edict as

Germans Are Gloomy About U.S. Offensive

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Amid unconfirmed reports that the final German defense lines before Berlin, German commentators said today that the "greatest mass of men and material ever assembled since the Normandy invasion" was facing open the historic gulf between the Meuse (Moselle) River and the Rhine Mountains.

The German commentator, Capt. Ludwig Bertolini, declared that the Allies had bottled at least forty divisions at the Meuse-Rhine sector alone and he predicted still greater blows to the south. Cologne was reported to be aflame after an aerial bombardment and Berlin admitted that "many" bridgeheads had been merged across the Roer River between Linlich and Duren in the past twenty-four hours as the Americans worked deeper into the German defenses.

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BIG FORGE STRIKES

Tokyo Indicates 1,600 Planes Hit in Waves—Sky Fights Swirl

5TH FLEET OFF COAST

Military, Naval and Air Bases Are Targets, Nimitz Announces

By WARREN MOSCOW

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Our fleet is at it again. A great force of bombers and battleships is attacking along close to Japan's shore while hundreds of carrier aircraft, perhaps as big a force as that which hit the same territory nine days ago, are striking again at the same target, the industrial center of Tokyo.

Tokyo broadcasts estimated that the attacking force numbered as many as 1,600 planes, about 400 more than were believed to have taken part in the previous smash at the Japanese capital on Feb. 16 and 17.

Remnants of the Japanese air force, which lost 500 planes positively destroyed and 100 damaged in the previous American attack on the Japanese capital, were presumed to be rising to the defense of its homeland as our Hellcats started military objectives, airfields and naval installations.

[Bombing broadcasts recorded by the Federal Communications System said Japanese planes were hitting the attackers over the Tokyo area.]

Spurrows in Command

The attack was announced briefly in a communique from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz reading as follows:

"Carrier aircraft of the Fifth Fleet are attacking military, naval and air installations in and around Tokyo. Admiral Raymond A. Spruance is present in command of the Fifth Fleet and Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher is in tactical command of the fast carrier task force making the attack."

Admiral Mitscher's force, the famous Task Force 58, is presumed to include fifteen to twenty of the fastest carriers and swiftest battleships, protected by a screen of destroyers, cruisers and minesweepers.

When the force struck on Feb. 16 and 17 we escaped without a single Japanese plane's having hit the staging bases from which the Hellcats had come, despite the fact that the attack lasted two days

JAPANESE OVERRUN

Marines Smash Through Maze of Defenses in Bloody Iwo Battle

REACH PLATEAU'S TOP

Drive to Strip's Center, Widen Beachhead, Mop Up on Volcano

By CLAYTON DANIEL

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Force, Feb. 24.—The all-out American offensive to reach the Rhine and destroy the German forces west of it has rolled four miles beyond the Roer River in its first two days, overwhelming twenty-one German towns and villages, penetrating four more and bringing in more than 4,000 prisoners.

With the rising flood of the Roer, the American First and Ninth Armies established a bridge and ferry system last night to move a steady flow of troops across the stream and now have a reserve of firm and well-entrenched lodgments on the east side of the Roer along a twenty-two-mile front. From the river, Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson's and Lieut. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' troops were flanking out onto the Cologne plain "according to schedule," which means the Allied Supreme Command is thoroughly satisfied.

Fallon Gains Five Miles

Both the Canadian First and the American Third Armies took advantage of the German fluster over the powerful Roer assault to step up gains north and south of the new attack.

British infantry and armor swept through the Bottin troops south of Caen to resume the attack on Gen. H. D. G. Crerar's front. Along the line General Crerar's forces were thrusting toward Wetz and closing in around Uden and Calcar. In the Uden district there was slight evidence of a German withdrawal.

With advances up to five miles today, Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army captured twenty-one towns and captured the tip of the German salient along the Luxembourg border down to a space three miles long and two miles wide. The tip is expected to be sliced off momentarily. Up to this morning the Third Army had dragged more than 1,000 prisoners out of the area. Resistance was becoming disorganized.

Marines of the Fifth Division hoist the American flag atop Mount Suribachi. Associated Press Wirephoto (left) sets from Guam.

EGYPTIAN PREMIER SLAIN IN CHAMBER

Extremist Lawyer Shoots Him After Reading of Decree Putting Nation in War

By SAM POPE BENEKER

By Wireless to The New York Times.

CAIRO, Egypt, Feb. 24.—Premier Ahmed Maher Pasha was shot and killed in Parliament tonight after he had read a royal decree declaring war against Germany and Japan.

Critically wounded by four revolver shots, the Premier was carried to a first-aid room in the

Eisenhower Points New Push At Knockout Blow in West

By Wireless to The New York Times.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, Allied Expeditionary Force, Feb. 24.—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower asserted today that the offensive on the western front was expected "to destroy every German" in its path west of the Rhine and that, if necessary to quell German resistance, the Allied armies would drive on into the center of the Reich to meet the Russian armies.

"Our battle with the Russians has always been as close and as intimate as was necessary to meet the situation at a particular moment," he told a press conference here. "The Russians have furnished me with all the information I have needed to know and they have done it willingly and cheerfully."

The Supreme Commander seemed directly satisfied with the progress so far made in the resumed advance toward the Rhine and indicated that he expected that the offensive would be carried through without unusual losses. However, he held out no hopes for a quick

SOVIET FORCES GAIN IN POLISH CORRIDOR

Red Army Stays Up to 3 Miles on Wide Front—15 Blocks Captured in Breslau

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Sunday, Feb. 25.—Red Army troops, advancing up to three miles on a sixty-five-mile front up the "Polish Corridor" and across eastern Pomerania, yesterday

War News Summarized

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1945

The American drive toward the most devastating aerial

"Old Glory Goes Up Over Iwo." New York Times [New York, NY], JPEG ed., 25 Feb. 1945, sec. 1, p. 1.

This is the Sunday Newspaper of February 25, 1945, that contained Rosenthal's flag-raising photo. The image spread across the nation quickly and electrified the public with patriotism and heroism. The newspaper copy was provided to me by the Marine Corps History Division of the Marine Corps University.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Alexander, Joseph. *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*. Washington D.C., Marine Corps Historical Foundation. *National Parks Services*, www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/npswapa/extcontent/usmc/pcn-190-003131-00/p-cn-190-003131-00/sec8.htm. Accessed 7 Apr. 2019.

This is a pamphlet used to educate Marines about the Battle of Iwo Jima. I used this transcript to learn about the landing on Iwo, the effect that the flag-raising had on the battle, and the brutal assault. I also used it for precise statistics of the casualties and landing force.

Hammond, Ivan. E-mail interview. 19 Feb. 2019.

Ivan Hammond is an Iwo Jima veteran who was assigned to the 5th Marine Division- 5th JASCO (Joint Assault Signal Company) ALP #13 attached to the 3rd Battalion- 28th Regiment during the Battle of Iwo Jima. My interview with Mr. Hammond helped me further understand the importance of taking Iwo Jima, the flag-raising impact on the Marines on Iwo Jima. Learning from the brave stories of Marines on Iwo Jima helped me understand the valor and spirit of a Marine. I used Mr. Hammond's interview response in my paper to describe the emotional moment when the first flag was raised on Mount Suribachi.

Horie, Yoshitaka. *Fighting Spirit: The Memoirs of Major Yoshitaka Horie and the Battle of Iwo Jima*. Edited by Robert D. Eldridge and Charles W. Tatum, Annapolis, Naval Institute Press, 2011.

This book is the first memoir written by a Japanese military officer, Yoshitaka Horie, who worked closely with Lieutenant Kuribayashi in planning the Battle of Iwo Jima. From this book, I learned firsthand information about the situation the Japanese were facing during wartime and their military strategies. Horie also provided insight into Kuribayashi's personality and battle habits. I used some quotes from this book to stress the Japanese "fighting to death" spirit.

Kakehashi, Kumiko, and Giles Murray. *So Sad to Fall in Battle: An Account of War Based on General Tadamichi Kuribayashi's Letters from Iwo Jima; Translated by Giles Murray*. Presidio Press trade pbk. ed., New York, Presidio Press/Ballantine Books, 2007.

This primary source was written by a Japanese war correspondent on Iwo Jima. The author used General Kuribayashi's letters written during the battle to put together this book. The book is great for readers to learn the tragedy about the Japanese on Iwo Jima. It helped provide a view from the Japanese side for my research. I used some quotes from letters that Kuribayashi wrote during the battle. They are very reliable firsthand information.

Lucas, Jack, and D. K. Drum. *Indestructible: The Unforgettable Story of a Marine Hero at the Battle of Iwo Jima*. Cambridge, Da Capo, 2007.

This book was written by Jack Lucas - the youngest Marine in history to receive the Medal of Honor. This book provided firsthand information about Jack's experiences on Iwo Jima and heavily emphasized Marines core values of bravery and sacrifice for the greater good. Jack used his body to shield three members of his squad from two grenades and was seriously injured when one exploded. Knowing the fact that he was only seventeen when fighting against the Japanese on Iwo Jima - only about three years older than me, I was deeply touched by this young Marine's extraordinary strength, sacrifice, and heroism. I used his stories twice in my paper.

McLaughlin, Howard N., and Raymond C. Miller. *From the Volcano to the Gorge: Getting the Job Done on Iwo Jima*. Standish, Tower Pub., 2010.

This book combines autobiographical narratives written by two Marines - Howard McLaughlin and Ray Miller, who were both in the landing force on the first day of landing during the Battle of Iwo Jima. I learned a lot of firsthand experiences from the two Marines narratives and also used some information from the book for the Marines Landing section in my paper.

Morehouse, Clifford P. *The Iwo Jima Operation*. Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch, G-3 Division, US Marines Corps, 1946.

I used this print book a lot in finding actual statistics on Iwo Jima, It is a primary source from the United States Marine Corps. I found this source at the University of Washington library. It was one of the best and reliable sources I used.

Musch, Warren. E-mail interview. 18 Feb. 2019.

Warren Musch is an Iwo Jima veteran who was a First Lieutenant of the 5th Marine Division during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Warren landed at around 13:00 pm on the first day of the battle and was on the island for the entire thirty-six days of operation. Mr. Musch shared his life stories and his view on Iwo Jima. I used his quote in my paper on what he saw when he just landed.

---. "Interview with Warren Musch." Interview by Mark DePue. *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*, 18 Oct. 2012, www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/oralhistory/VeteransRemember/worldwarII/Documents/MuschWar/Musch_War_4FNL.pdf. Accessed 7 Apr. 2019.

Warren Musch was a First Lieutenant of the 5th Marine Division - a great leader on the battlefield. This interview was conducted by Mark DePue. It helped me visualize and feel the bloody battlefield, further understand how tough the battle of Iwo Jima was and how many difficulties the Marines had to overcome to win the battle.

Orsland, Avin. E-mail and Phone interview. 6. Apr. 2019.

Alvin Orsland is an Iwo veteran who currently lives in Washington State. My email interview with Mr. Orsland helped me understand the importance of the Battle of Iwo Jima and what Marines had sacrificed in order to win the battle. My follow-up phone interview with Mr. Orsland was primarily about the flag-raising. He helped me further understand how the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi inspired the Marines on Iwo Jima. He was on the ship and was gratified to see the flag flying proudly.

Orsland, Alvin. "Hell on Iwo Jima – One Marine's Story." *Armchair General*, 8 Mar. 2010, armchairgeneral.com/hell-on-iwo-jima-one-marines-story.htm. Accessed 7 Apr. 2019.

This is a transcript of an interview with Alvin Orsland. This personal account originally appeared in *Armchair General Magazine* in November 2006. Mr. Orsland shared his firsthand experience about landing and fighting on Iwo Jima. He joined H company, 26th Regiment and spent thirty days on Iwo Jima. I used some quotes from this interview about military leaders' optimism on taking Iwo Jima in seventy-two hours and the difficulties to fight with invisible Japanese.

Osborn, Clifton E. "Corporal Clifton E. Osborn Diary of the Battle of Iwo Jima." 16 Mar. 1945. Manuscript.

This transcript of the original handwritten diary written by Clifton E. Osborn describes the events leading up to the Battle of Iwo Jima. Osborn was part of the 5th Marine Division. This source gave me great information about how the Marine's strategically moved up the island, and how gruesome and tiring the battle was.

Smith, Holland M., and Percy Finch. *Coral and Brass*. New York, Scribner, 1949.

This primary print book was entirely composed of General Holland Smith's work. Every page-turn of this book gave me great information for my research. I used several of General Smith's quotes in my paper: the emotional moment when the Marines saw the American flag raised on Mount Suribachi; the tough hand to hand fighting when the Marines took over the Japanese fortifications and James Forrestal's remark about "the raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years".

Vedder, James S. *Surgeon on Iwo: Up Front with the 27th Marines*. Novato, Presidio Press, 1984.

This primary source was written by an Iwo Jima surgeon - James Vedder. The book is more like a diary and contains lots of firsthand information about the chaos and destruction on Iwo Jima. It uncovered the tragic side of the battle. At the end of Vedder's book, he questioned if the "sulfur-smelling island was worth the terrible cost." This book helped me further understand the violence of the battle and the controversy about the value of taking Iwo Jima.

Wells, Keith. *"Give Me Fifty Marines Not Afraid to Die": Iwo Jima*. Abilene, Quality Publications, 1995.

This book was written by John Keith Wells, who was the Lieutenant of 3rd Platoon, Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division during the Battle of Iwo Jima. From his book, I learned how his platoon fought against the enemy who would rather commit suicide than surrender and how Lieutenant Wells inspired his platoon to become the most decorated platoon to fight in a single engagement in the history of the United States Marine Corps. I also used some information regarding the first day landing from this book as first-hand evidence.

Wheeler, Richard. *Iwo*. New York, Lippincott & Crowell, 1980.

The author of this book, Richard Wheeler, was a member of the company that raised the famous flag on Mount Suribachi. After conducting extensive interviews with Marine veterans as well as some Japanese Iwo survivors, Wheeler told combat stories in a very vivid and accurate way and reflected the facts from both Marines and Japanese soldiers perspectives. I learned lots of firsthand insight into the battle from the book and further understood the tragedy and triumph associated with the flag-raising on Suribachi. I also used the raising-flag information from this book as evidence in my paper.

Secondary Sources

"The Battle of Midway." *National WWII Museum*,
www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/battle-midway. Accessed 19 Jan. 2019.

This source helped me learn about the importance of the Battle of Midway and its effect on the entire Pacific War. It tremendously boosted my understanding of the American campaign in the Pacific.

Buell, Hal. *Uncommon Valor, Common Virtue: Iwo Jima and the Photograph That Captured America*. New York, Penguin, 2006.

I used this book to learn about the spirit of the Marines and what being a Marine meant. It is one of the best books for my research. I also gained lots of knowledge of the flag-raising image and its impacts from this book.

Burgan, Michael. *Raising the Flag: How a Photograph Gave a Nation Hope in Wartime*. Mankato, Compass Point, 2011.

This book enhanced my understanding of the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi and how influential the image had, not only to the Marine Corps but also to the United States as a country. I also used this book to learn about how tragic the Battle of Iwo Jima was and how horrible the conditions were on the island.

Burrell, Robert S. *The Ghosts of Iwo Jima*. College Station, Texas A & M UP, 2006.

This is a secondary print book made by the renowned Marine Corps historian Robert Burrell. In this book, Burrell offers a deep analysis of the cost of taking Iwo Jima and its role in the Pacific War. His analysis also helped me understand the long-term impacts of

Iwo Jima: the public respect of Marines Corps benefited them to grow fast postwar; the "flag raising" image has become a legendary symbol of patriotism and heroism in U.S. history.

Butler, John. E-mail interview. 7 Feb. 2019.

John Butler III is the president of the Fifth Marine Division Association. His dad Colonel John A. Butler was the commander of 1st Battalion 27th Marines during World War II. Colonel Butler was killed by Japanese on the way to visit 27th Marine Command Post on D+14 of Iwo Jima, March 5, 1945. John Butler III provided information on the history of the 1st Battalion 27th Marines and how they fought on Iwo Jima. It helped me further understand the intensity of the battle and Marines' sacrifice and bravery. Mr. Butler also provided me with contact information of several Iwo veterans. He was extremely helpful in my entire NHD project research.

Butler, John A. "Iwo Jima." University of Southern Florida, 2012, Tampa. Lecture.

This secondary source was provided by John Butler, the president of the Fifth Marine Division Association. Mr. Butler used this source in an Iwo Jima class he gave to the University of South Florida history students in 2012. This lecture helped me further understand the American landing and invasion plan, the Japanese defense plan as well as the flag-raising impacts. I used some information from this lecture in the Japanese defense section of my paper.

Elliott, Ray. E-mail interview. 7 May 2019.

Ray Elliott is the secretary of the Fifth Marine Division Association and *Spearhead News* editor. Mr. Elliott has been a great help for my research. He provided me with lots of great information on the Battle of Iwo Jima and the Marine Corps history. His response to my email interview helped me understand the flag-raising impact on the Corps and the nation. I used his interview response in the flag-raising legacy section of my paper.

"Island Hopping: Footholds Across the Pacific." *National WWII Museum*, www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/exhibits/road-tokyo/island-hopping. Accessed 19 Jan. 2019.

This source from the National WWII Museum gave me great information about how the Marines accomplished their "island hopping" campaign in the Pacific. It offers lots of great analysis on how island-hopping was very hard to pull off, but the Marines made it

happen. I used this source in my historical context to explain the US military strategy and the overall situation in the Pacific prior to the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima Fact Sheet. New Orleans. *National WW2 Museum*,
www.nationalww2museum.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/iwo-jima-fact-sheet.pdf.
 Accessed 11 Oct. 2018.

This report from the National WWII Museum contains great facts and statistics of Iwo Jima. It provided me with the exact number of casualties and reliable information of the Congressional Medal of Honors.

"Joe Rosenthal and the Flag-raising on Iwo Jima." *The Pulitzer Prizes*,
www.pulitzer.org/article/joe-rosenthal-and-flag-raising-iwo-jima. Accessed 14 Jan. 2019.

This nationally recognized website provided me with great information about the iconic flag-raising on Iwo Jima and how it contributed to the Marine Corps and American morale during war-time. This is the only website about the Pulitzer award, the most recognized award for art.

Kuz, Martin. "Flag Raising Photo Secured Marine Corps' Future Forever." *Stars and Stripes*, 23 Feb. 2015, media.stripes.com/i/IwoJima70/tablet/iwo-jima--page-3.html. Accessed 11 May 2019.

Mr. Ray Elliott from the Fifth Marine Division Association provided me with this newspaper article when I sent him some flag-raising interview questions. This article furthered my understanding of the important impact that the flag-raising had on the Marine Corps and how the flag-raising publicity helped the Corps survive the post-war defense budget cut on conventional forces. I also used information from this article in the legacy section of my paper.

Ringle, Ken. "The Uphill Battle." *The Washington Post* [Washington D.C.], 19 Feb. 1995,
www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1995/02/19/the-uphill-battle/f5265c77-b6fc-42cd-b2e1-eea6ca4d4677/?utm_term=.191bba9026a1. Accessed 14 Jan. 2019.

This source from the Washington Post paints a great picture of how courageous and brave the Marines on Iwo Jima were. It portrays how bad conditions were on Iwo Jima and how the Marines wouldn't give up.

Robertson, Breanne. Interview. Quantico, Virginia, Marine Corps History Division, Marine Corps University. 23 Jan. 2019.

Dr. Breanne Robertson is a Marine historian at the Marine Corps University. In my phone interview with Dr. Robertson, I learned about how Iwo Jima played in the overall scheme of the Pacific War, how stiff the Japanese defense was and how Iwo Jima impacted the Marine Corps. I used a couple of quotes from her on how the Japanese dug themselves into Iwo Jima. Dr. Robertson has been extremely helpful in my entire NHD project research.

Robertson, Breanne. Interview. 19 Mar. 2019.

This is a follow-up email interview with Dr. Breanne Robertson. It is primarily about the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi. I used some quotes from her on how the Marine Corps used Rosenthal's photo to promote Marine values through a multi-pronged process.

Rogers, David J. *Japanese Defenses and Fortifications Tarawa, Iwo Jima And Okinawa 1943-1945*. University of Missouri-Rolla, web.mst.edu/~rogersda/umrcourses/ge342/Japanese%20Island%20Defenses%201943-45.pdf. Accessed 6 Jan. 2019.

This presentation provided me with detailed information on how the Japanese Army managed to transform Iwo Jima into an impregnable fortress. I used information from this report in the Japanese defense section of my paper.

"USMC Statement on Iwo Jima Flag Raiser." *Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication, Headquarters Marine Corps*, 23 June 2016, www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/810457/usmc-statement-on-iwo-jima-flag-raisers/. Accessed 9 Apr. 2019.

I used this statement from the United States Marine Corps Headquarters to gain information about the Iwo Jima flag-raisers. It gave lots of information about how important this moment was to U.S. history.