

Battle for Iwo Jima - World War II

February 19 to March 16, 1945

Historical Facts and Figures

- **Location:** Approximately 650 miles south of Tokyo, Japan.
- **Size of Island:** Approximately 2 miles wide, 4 miles long; 8 square miles
- Iwo Jima was the first native Japanese soil invaded by Americans in W.W.II. Approximately **60,000** Americans and **20,000** Japanese participated in the Battle.
- The American Flag Raising on Mt. Suribachi took place on February 23, 1945 - the fifth day of battle. The Battle continued with increased intensity for a month more. Almost **7,000** Americans were killed in action at Iwo Jima - more than **20,000** American casualties.
- Approximately **one-third** of all Marines killed in action in World War II were killed at Iwo Jima, making Iwo Jima the battle with the highest number of casualties in Marine Corps history.
- **Twenty-seven Congressional Medals of Honor** were awarded in the Battle - more than were awarded to Marines and Navy in any other Battle in our country's history.
- Three of the men who raised the flag in the Joe Rosenthal photo were killed before the Battle was over.
- After the capture of Iwo Jima, more than 30,000 American Airmen's lives were saved when more than 2,400 disabled B-29 bombers were able to make emergency landings at the Iwo Jima Airfield after making bombing flights over Japan.
- Approximately **132 Americans** killed at Iwo Jima were unidentifiable and listed as unknown.
- More than **50** 4th Division Marines died of wounds aboard ship and were buried at sea.
- The U.S. government returned the island of Iwo Jima to the Japanese government in 1968, after the bodies of the men in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Division cemeteries were removed to the United States.