

# THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 26, 1945 UNITED STATES VS. JAPAN

## IWO JIMA



The tiny island of Iwo Jima is located halfway between Saipan and Japan.

The island had two airfields and was a prime location to support U.S. attacks on mainland Japan.

The island was heavily defended by Japanese forces. The 36-day assault resulted in the death of 6,800 Americans.

After capturing the island, U.S. Forces used the island to support 1,191 fighter escorts, 3,081 strike sorties, and 2,251 B-29 Superfortress landings.

## ATTACKING FORCES

17 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

1,170 AIRPLANES

110,308 TROOPS

## DEFENDING IWO JIMA

Japanese forces built 750 defense installations underground to shelter soldiers and store armament. It is now estimated that 21,000 Japanese soldiers were on the island.

The extensive tunnel system spread about 13,000 yards. On Mount Suribachi there were 1,000 cave entrances.

## AIRPOWER

The 4FU Corsair is aircraft most associated with this battle. Corsairs supported Marines on the ground by strafing the beaches in advance of the amphibious landing.



## MEDALS 27

MEDALS OF HONOR were awarded to Marines and Navy Sailors for actions on Iwo Jima

## U.S. CASUALTIES

### MARINES

5,931 Killed  
17,272 Wounded

### NAVY

890 Killed  
1,945 Wounded

### ARMY

9 Killed  
28 Wounded

The iconic photo of the American flag being raised over Mt. Suribachi was taken by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945.

Three of the six people immortalized in this image were killed in this battle.

