



*The initial wave of Marines lands below Mount Suribachi on one of the four invasion beaches on Iwo Jima in February 1945.*

*The photograph was taken by Leatherneck magazine's Lou Lowery. Landing Ships (Medium) climb the shoreline at left.*

**31 March.** Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, flew 186 separate missions in northern Luzon in support of guerrilla fighters.

**10 March.** Elements of the U.S. Eighth Army, augmented by ground echelons of Marine Aircraft Groups 12 and 32 plus Air Warning Squadron-4, assaulted Mindanao near Zamboanga. Marine Aircraft Group 12 furnished air support for the landing.

**15-18 March.** Marine Fighting Squadrons 115, 211, 218, and 313 from Marine Aircraft Group 12 flew onto Moret Field, Mindanao, from Leyte. They were the first air units to arrive at the new Marine air base.

**18 March.** Elements of the 40th Infantry Division, USA, supported by Marine aircraft from Samar, landed on Panay.

**24-26 March.** Marine Aircraft Group 32 (VMSB-236, -142, -341, and -243) moved from Luzon to Zamboanga, Mindanao.

**26 March.** Elements of Marine Aircraft Group-14 supported the landing of U.S. Army forces on Cebu Island.

**29 March.** The 40th Infantry Division, USA, landed on Negros Island with air cover furnished by Marine Aircraft Group 14.

## Iwo Jima

**5 January.** U.S. Navy vessels shelled Iwo Jima.

**24 January.** A powerful U.S. naval surface force bombarded Iwo Jima.

**10 February-4 March.** Task Force-58 from Ulithi—including Marine Fighting Squadrons 112, 123, 216, 217, and 212 and 451 on board large carriers—attacked Toyko, (16, 17, and 25 February), furnished air support for the Iwo Jima landing forces (beginning 19 February), and participated in a series of strikes on Okinawa (1 and 2 March).

**16-18 February.** Amphibious Support Force, Task Force 52, conducted preparatory bombardment of Iwo Jima.

**19 February.** Preceded by preliminary naval and air bombardment, the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed abreast on Green, Red, Yellow, and Blue Beaches along the southeast coast of the island. The 27th and 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, reached the western beach and isolated Mt. Suribachi. Front lines of the 4th Marine Division extended to the eastern edge of the airfield.

**21 February.** The 21st Marines, in V Amphibious Corps reserve, was committed in the 4th Marine Division zone. Japanese kamikazes attacked support ships off the island.

**22 February.** Elements of the 28th Marines reached the base of Mt. Suribachi.

**23 February.** A detachment from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, raised the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi. The volcano was encircled when elements of Company E contacted the 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, near the southern tip of the island.

**24 February.** Elements of the 3d Marine Division began landing on Beach Black. Charlie-Dog Ridge, a strongly defended area running along the southeast edge of the east-west runway on Airfield No. 2, was secured by the 2d and 3d Battalions, 24th Marines. The 2d Separate Engineer Battalion rehabilitated a 1,500-foot strip on the north-south runway of Airfield No. 1 (24 and 25 February).

**25 February.** The 3d Marine Division assumed responsibility for clearing the central portion of the Motoyama Plateau encompassing Airfields Nos. 2 and 3 and Motoyama Village.

**26 February.** Two planes from Marine Observation Squadron-4, the first U.S. aircraft to land on the island, flew in from the U.S. escort carrier *Wake Island*.

**27 February.** The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, in the 3d Marine Division zone, overran Hill Peter and the crest of 199 Oboe to the north of Airfield No. 2; the airfield was captured by the 1st and 2d Battalions, 9th Marines. Marine Observation Squadron-5 began operations from Airfield No. 1.



*A wave of charging 4th Division Marines begins a D-Day attack on a heavily shelled beach on the southeast coast of Iwo Jima,*

*as another boatload of battle-tested troops prepares to disembark. By day's end frontlines extended to the island's airfield.*

**27 February.** MajGen James E. Chaney, Commanding General, Army Garrison Forces and Island Commander, landed with his headquarters and a detachment of the 147th Infantry Regiment, USA, and advance elements of the VII Fighter Command, USA.

**28 February.** The 3d Battalion, 21st Marines, captured Motoyama Village and the high ground overlooking Airfield No. 3.

**1 March.** Sixteen light planes of Marine Observation Squadrons 4 and 5 were based ashore. The Commander, Landing Force Air Support Control Unit (Col Vernon E. Megee) assumed responsibility for support aircraft and became Commander, Air, Iwo Jima.

**2 March.** Units of the 5th Marine Division overran Hill 362A, the heavily fortified western anchor of the Japanese main cross-island defenses.

**2 March.** In the 4th Marine Division zone, the 2d Battalion, 24th Marines overran Hill 382.

**3 March.** The 3d Marine Division cleared Airfield No. 3, Hills 357 and 362B, east of the Motoyama Plateau. No important Japanese resistance remained between the 2d Battalion, 21st Marines, and the eastern coast of the island.

**4 March.** The first B-29 landed on the island.

**6 March.** After intensive artillery and naval gunfire preparation, elements of the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions attacked to the northeast and east in an all-out effort to breach the Japanese final defense line.

**6 March.** BGen Ernest C. Moore, USA, Commanding General, Fighter Command, landed on Airfield No. 1 with the commander of the 15th Fighter Group and planes of the 47th Fighter and 548th Night Fighter Squadrons, USA.

**7 March.** Company K of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, seized Hill 362C, a Japanese stronghold located in the northeastern sector of the island.

**7 March.** MajGen James E. Chaney, USA, Island Commander, assumed responsibility for base development, air defense, and operation of the airfields. BGen Ernest C. Moore, USA, became Commander, Air, Iwo Jima.

**8 March.** Iwo-based planes of the 15th Fighter Group, USA, took over combat air patrol duties and flew close support missions until 14 March; carrier aircraft departed on 10 March.

**8-9 March.** The 4th Marine Division repulsed a large-scale Japanese counterattack during which the Japanese sustained heavy losses.

**8-9 March.** The forward echelon of Marine Torpedo-Bombing Squadron-242 arrived from Tinian to fly anti-submarine patrol.

**9 March.** Patrols of the 3d Marine Division reached the northeast coast.

*Marine rocket trucks in action on Iwo Jima.*





*Marines perch atop a hill of expended ammunition and ammo cases at the foot of Mount Suribachi on D-Day plus three.*

**10 March.** The 3d Marine Division zone of action, up the center of the island, was cleared with the exception of a Japanese pocket in the 9th Marines' area, and scattered resistance in the cliffs overlooking the beach. The Amphitheater-Turkey Knob salient in the center of the 4th Marine Division zone was eliminated.

**11 March.** The final phase of the campaign opened with the 3d and 4th Marine Divisions driving to the east coast and the 5th Marine Division to the north.

**12 March.** The 1st and 3d Battalions, 9th Marines, in the 3d Marine Division zone, attacked west toward "Cushman's Pocket," a last stronghold of enemy resistance on the island.

**14 March.** The official flag raising ceremony, at the V Amphibious Corps headquarters, marked the proclamation of U.S. Navy Military Government in the Volcano Islands. LtGen

*Pack- and gear-laden members of the 5th Division's Infantry Battalion, 26th Marines, trudge through hardy overgrowth and*

Holland M. Smith, Commander, Expeditionary Troops, departed for Guam.

**14-16 March.** The first phase of operations against "Cushman's Pocket" opened with an attack by the 1st and 2d Battalions, 9th Marines (rein).

**16 March.** The 1st and 2d Battalions, 21st Marines (rein), overran "Cushman's Pocket" and reached the northern coast of the island at Kitano's Point, thus eliminating all Japanese resistance in the 3d Marine Division zone.

**16 March.** Regimental Combat Team 25 cut through to the beach road on the eastern coast of the island and announced the complete destruction of all resistance in the last stronghold of the 4th Marine Division zone.

**16 March.** The island was declared secured; the only remaining resistance came from the western half of Kitano Point and the draw to the southwest.

**18-19 March.** The 4th Marine Division departed for Maui, Hawaiian Islands. The 3d Marine Division took over patrol and defense responsibilities from the other divisions as they moved out.

**20 March.** The 147th Infantry, USA, arrived from New Caledonia to take over the defense of the island and was attached to the 3d Marine Division for operational control.

**25 March.** Regimental Combat Team 28 eliminated the last pocket of Japanese resistance, in the western half of Kitano Point.

**26 March.** Two hundred to three hundred Japanese from the north attacked Marine and Army bivouacs near the western beaches, but the force was destroyed by troops of the VII Fighter Command, USA, and the 5th Pioneer Battalion.

**26 March.** The capture and occupation phase of the campaign was announced completed and the Commander, Forward Area, Central Pacific, assumed responsibility for the defense and development of the island. MajGen James E. Chaney, USA, took over operational control of all units ashore,

*blasted earth up to the frontlines on Iwo Jima to relieve the regiment's hard-pressed 1st Battalion on 21 February 1945.*





*Pvt Robert K. Marshall and Cpl Allen L. Griffin fire from a hole hastily dug in smoking sulfurous ash surrounding the*

*ruined Iwo Jima refinery in the background in March 1945. They were engaging Japanese snipers dressed as U.S. Marines.*

and BGen Ernest C. Moore, USA, was designated Air Defense Commander. MajGen Harry Schmidt closed the V Amphibious Corps command post and departed, leaving the 9th Marines to assist in mop-up activities.

**27 March.** Units of the 5th Marine Division departed for Hawaii.

### Okinawa

**3-4 January.** Aircraft of Marine Fighting Squadrons 124 and 213, operating from the carrier USS *Essex*, struck Formosa and the Ryukyus; this was the first instance of Marine fighter squadrons attacking land installations from a carrier.

**1 March.** Planes of Task Force 58 photographed Japanese positions and hit island defenses on Okinawa.

**23-25 March.** Task Force 58, including Marine Fighting Squadrons 112, 123, 221, and 451 on board the USS *Bennington* and *Bunker Hill*, flew sorties over Okinawa during the last of softening up operations.

**25-31 March.** Task Forces 52 and 54 bombarded Okinawa in preparation for the landing.

**26 March.** Troops of the 77th Infantry Division, USA, landed on Kerama Retto, securing Yakabi, Geruma, and Hokaji Shima and establishing firm footholds on Aka and Zamami Shima.

**26-31 March.** The 8th Japanese Air Division from Sakishima Gunto executed Kamikaze attacks on Allied ships standing off Kerama Retto.

**26-27 March.** The Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion (less Company B) landed on the four reef islets of Keise Shima, discovered no enemy, and reembarked.

**26-27 March.** A British Carrier Force, Task Force 57, struck the Sakashima Gunto as part of its planned schedule of preliminary operations supporting the Okinawa assault.

**27 March.** Elements of the 77th Army's Division landed on separate beaches of Tokashiki Shima, the last remaining major target in the Kerama Retto island group, and occupied Amuro and Ruba Shima.

**27-28 March.** Company A, Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion, made a rubber-boat landing on Aware Shima but found no Japanese and reembarked.

**28-29 March.** Forces of the 77th Division, USA, mopped-up Japanese resistance on Kerama Retto, securing Aka, Zamami, and Tokashiki Shima.

**29 March.** The Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion scouted Mae and Kuro Shima, midway between Kerama Retto and Keise Shima.

*The famous Joe Rosenthal photograph of the second flag-raising on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in February 1945.*

Associated Press Photo



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