



This type of close-in fighting took four days. On D-Day plus 4, the fifth day of the battle, a patrol of four men began to move up the steep slopes of Suribachi.

Once there, in the dish-shaped crater that formed the summit, they found that the Japanese had left, or at least crawled into their holes in the mountain.

Soon, an American flag was waving proudly over Suribachi.

A short time later, a second, larger flag was raised. This event was immortalized by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.

This photo of five Marines and a Navy Corpsman raising the flag became famous the instant it was released. The picture received many awards, including the 1945 Pulitzer Prize. Three of the men in the photo were later killed in action before Iwo was secured.

Drive to the North...



With Suribachi in Marine hands, attention was focused on Iwo's northern end. Here was the dirty, casualty-producing job that had to be done to make the objective a productive base.

General Kuribayashi was now aware that he had no hope of defeating the advancing Marines, but he was determined to make the capture of the island as costly as possible. In this he succeeded.

His artillerymen, hidden in the hills, continued to take a grim toll in Marine lives. The Japanese soldiers fought with awesome determination.