

Iwo Jima Memorial



The Battle of Iwo Jima

On February 19, 1945 about 70,000 marines invaded the small Pacific Island of Iwo Jima which was under control of the Japanese army. The island was a strategic objective due to its airfield which was used for kamikaze attacks.

By capturing the island, the Allied Forces would not only prevent attacks from the island but it would also give them a base from where the Japanese mainland could be reached by B-29 Superfortresses.



“How could I feel like a hero when only five men in my platoon of 45 survived, when only 27 men in my company of 250 managed to escape death or injury?” - Ira Hayes



1. [Watch this video.](#)
2. Read the quotes and reflect on the information about the surviving flag raisers.
3. What is their perspective on war and heroism?
4. Explain one quote and how this event may have effected their entire lives.



“People refer to us as heroes—I personally don’t look at it that way.”
- John Bradley



“Do not glorify war. There’s nothing glorious about it.” - Rene Gagnon