



MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Iwo Jima Flag Raising

On the morning of 23 February 1945, as elements of the 28th Marines finally crested the summit of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima after savage fighting, a group of Marines located a length of iron pipe and raised a small American flag from USS *Missoula* (APA 211). To ensure that Marines across the island could see the colors, a larger flag was sourced from *LST-779*, which Private First Class Ira H. Hayes, Private First Class Harold H. Schultz, Private First Class Franklin R. Sousley, Corporal Harlon H. Block, Corporal Harold P. Keller, and Sergeant Michael Strank raised. During the second flag raising, Joe

Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, captured the iconic image while a Marine motion picture cameraman, Sergeant William H. Genaust, filmed the moment. Seeing the U.S. flag raised on the highest point of Iwo Jima, where it was visible across the whole island, inspired the Marines there to continue the brutal fight, and both the photograph and film that immortalized the event have become defining images of Marines' heroism during World War II and all wars.



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