

tanks, flame throwers, heavy artillery and offshore mortar and rocket boats. Each yard was heartbreak.

By Day 14, the battle line was at Day Two's objective.

That day, crippled over Tokyo, the B-29 Dinah Might, was the first Superfort bomber to land on Iwo Jima while trying to return to Guam. With the short, shell-shocked runway under sporadic fire, the 65-ton bomber flopped down for a wild but safe landing.

A Doberman pinscher war dog led his handler's patrol to a huge cave on the eastern coast where scores of Japanese had lain dead for days in an overpowering stench. Seven Japanese came out of a catacomb and surrendered.

Day 24, March 14 at 9:30 a.m., as CincPac ordered, there was a short ceremony near the base of Suribachi. Gen. Smith's personnel officer, Col. David Stafford, read a proclamation issued by Adm. Chester Nimitz from headquarters on Guam that officially claimed victory and proclaimed Iwo Jima a U.S. territory. A bugler sounded colors, our flag was hoisted, and a color guard, Adm. Richmond K. Turner and Gen. Smith joined each division commander—Maj. Gens. Graves B. Erskine, Clifton B. Cates and Keller E. Rockey of the 3rd, 4th and 5th divisions, respectively—in salutes.

Dedications of three separate cemeteries followed. Bill Ross, Marine correspondent wrote that as Rockey spoke at the 5th's cemetery, a bulldozer dug more burial trenches for poncho-shrouded Marines laid out in long lines awaiting burial and that a jeep drove up with several more bodies.

Gen. Erskine spoke at the 3rd's cemetery. "Victory was never in doubt. Its cost was. What was in doubt was whether there would be any of us left to dedicate our cemetery . . . let the world count our crosses, over and over . . . let us do away with ranks and ratings and designations . . . old timers . . . replacements—here lie only Marines."

(In the mid-1950s the bodies of all Marines buried on Iwo Jima were exhumed and returned to American soil.)

Day 35, March 25, remnants of regiments 26, 27 and 28 wearily and warily slogged into Bloody Gorge on the northwest tip of Iwo Jima. There was no resistance: There were no more Japanese.

Official figures are testimony to the valor of Americans who served in the Iwo Jima battle. Total casualties 28,686. Of the 6,821 dead or missing, 5,931 were Marines, 195 were Navy corpsmen attached to Marine units. Of the 27 Medals of Honor awarded to Marines and corpsmen for valor at Iwo, more than half were awarded posthumously.

An estimate of Japanese killed: 20,000. Just 1,083 were taken prisoner—many from the Korean labor battalion.

On March 14, Adm. Nimitz issued a press release that ended with "Among the Americans who served at Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

The same day, Gen. Cates, dedicating his 4th Division's cemetery, said, "No words of mine can express the homage due these fallen heroes. But I can assure you, and also their loved ones, that we will carry their banner forward."

[From the Navy Times, February 27, 1995]

IF IT HAD TO BE DONE ALL OVER AGAIN—FUTURE MARINES WOULD TAKE IWO IN ANOTHER WAY

(By Chris Lawson)

WASHINGTON.—If the Marines were tasked with taking Iwo Jima island tomorrow, chances are the assault would look pretty much the same as 50 years ago. It would be a massive amphibious landing.

But in 2010, if all goes as planned, the Corps will have the tools in hand to tackle

the mission in an entirely new way. From the V-22 Osprey troop carrier to the high-speed advanced amphibious assault vehicle the Corps will be generations ahead of the technology available both in 1945 and today. Indeed, its arsenal might even include robot-controlled vehicles.

While today's Marines are highly skilled at fighting in the desert and other open terrain with fast-moving tanks and light armored vehicles—as well as fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft not available in 1945—experts say modern Marines would face many of the same difficulties the 75,000 others did when they came ashore Feb. 19, 1945, and faced down a well-dug-in enemy force of 20,000 Japanese defenders.

TOUGH ROW TO HOE

Some examples:

The current amphibious tractor travels only 5 mph, a mere 2 mph advantage over World War II models.

Helicopters would be rendered ineffective because nearly every square inch of the small island would be covered with defensive fire.

Troop mobility would not be significantly improved, since most of today's radios and other equipment are the same size and weight as they were in Vietnam.

Fancy technology, like global positioning systems, would not have much value on an island with a total area of just eight square miles.

But today's Marines would have one distinct advantage. They would likely fight at night. "We could fight in the dark pretty well, but to take a place like Iwo, we'd do it pretty much the same way," said Col. Gary Anderson, the director of the Corps' Experimental Unit, a futuristic warfighting think tank at Quantico, Va.

"It would probably still take individual Marines to root the enemy out. I don't think that today we have got the capability to force them up out of their [fighting] holes."

A DIFFERENT FUTURE

But in 2010, if the Marines get the weapons platforms they're currently vying for and take advantage of burgeoning commercial technologies, bloody Iwo might not be so bloody.

The best part: America might not even have to take such an island—just simply go around it.

But if they did need to seize Iwo, future Marines would have several distinct advantages.

For starters, the attack could come from over-the-horizon at breakneck speeds and top maneuverability. The V-22 Osprey people mover could help ferry Marines inland to high ground and Iwo airstrips, instead of simply dropping them at the soggy, ash-sand beaches and forcing Marines to slog their way ashore.

The AAV could maneuver around any mines in the off-shore waters, and roar from ship to shore at speeds of more than 30 mph, thereby reducing their vulnerability to enemy fire.

Thank again to the legs and speed of the V-22, the logistics trains would likely be based at sea—not on the beach, where in World War II it fell victim to a continuous bombardment by enemy forces.

The Marines would also have the capability to land infestation teams on the critical high ground and take that advantage away from the enemy. Marines would likely land atop Mount Suribachi and fight their way down to the bottom, instead of working their way up under deadly attack.

ROBOTS TOO

Anderson said robotic technology could have a dramatic effect as well, and possible save the lives of thousands of Marines. Re-

mote-controlled AAVs, for example, could roar ashore and act as a magnet for enemy fire. Sophisticated sensing systems could then acquire the targets.

"You shoot at us, you die," Anderson said. "Every time they fire, they would become a target."

The best part: advanced Marine weaponry will likely allow shooters to engage their targets from the line of sight.

"If you can get eyes on target, you can kill them," Anderson said. "You wouldn't do away totally with rifle-to-rifle and hand-to-hand combat, but you'd cut it way down. In 1945, 85 percent of the fighting was done that way. We think we could get that down to 20 percent."

SOFTENING THE TARGET

The Marines, Navy and Air Force would also pound the daylights out of the islands with bomb after sophisticated bomb in an effort to prep the battlefield for maximum effectiveness.

Here again, robots could play a vital role. But just how vital will be determined as much by culture as technology.

"Would you see a robot platoon raise the flag on Mount Suribachi? I don't think so," Anderson said with a laugh. "But one of the raisers might be a robot."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 4:30 p.m. on Thursday and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 1 p.m. on Thursday and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. EHLERS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCHALE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MONTGOMERY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURTHA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EVANS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TEJEDA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCHALE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BECERRA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TORKILDSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes, on February 24.