

With the capture of Iwo Jima, America would be one step closer to Japan's home islands and remove a major menace to US bombers attacking Japanese cities . . .

UST AFTER 9am on February 19, 1945, the first U.S. Marines stormed onto Iwo Jima's beaches. Little did they realize the hell they were about to run into.

3 days before, naval gunfire had continuously blasted this tiny spit of volcanic sand and rock. For another 75 days (prior to the landings) waves of B24, B25 and B29 bombers had let loose the mightiest bombardment of the entire Pacific campaign.

Surely, many Marines thought. nothing could survive such an intensive onslaught. As their landing craft and amtracs headed for the shore, the men of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions (over 30,000 combined) expected to rapidly overcome the few remaining Japanese survivors.

## THE NASTIEST OF SURPRISES

Awaiting the Americans was a ferocious and fanatical force of 21,000 Japanese troops who had carved out of solid volcanic rock more than 11 miles of caves, tunnels, carefully camouflaged pill boxes and bombproof bunkers.

For 20 full minutes after the Marines landed, all was quiet. Then, without warning... all hell broke loose!

From their superbly fortified, concealed positions and strong points, Iwo's defenders brought down a deadly counter barrage of mortar and artillery fire on the American troops.



IWI023 "AMTRACK ASSAULT"

Simultaneously machine gun and other small arms fire cut swathes through the ranks of Marines still moving off the beach.

Suddenly Iwo Jima was no longer a simple "walk-over".

Despite this fierce Japanese resistance and the terrible casualties, the Marines pressed forward... and upwards. Up Mt. Suribachi, the highest feature on the small island.

Our latest amphibious assault craft - an LVT-4 version of the famous Amtrac boasts two .50 calibre machine guns as well as a pair of .30's. A rear facing ramp allows easy troop access. A realistic, battle-worn camouflage paint scheme. Iwo Iima markings plus a wounded Marine cox'n and a single rifleman complete the set.

IWI020 "RETURN FIRE" shows four "leathernecks" crouching and lying firing... all of them trying to avoid the deadly enemy artillery fire and snipers.

## 60 YEARS ON..

Back in 1999. King & Country launched its first series of "IWO IIMA' figures and fighting vehicles. This

Anniversary year we are returning to the inferno that was Iwo Jima to release no less than SIX all new, all redesigned and resculpted sets to add to your collection.

IWI019 "RAISING FLAG" - Probably the most famous image of World War Two. The hoisting of the flag on Mt. Suribachi was both symbolic and inspirational.

## AMPHIBIOUS EXPERT

olland M. 'Howling Mad' Smith (1882-1967), nicknamed for his temper as well as his initials, was the best known US Marine Corps general of World War II. He was in charge of training marines in the USA from 1939 to 1943, then went to the Pacific and led the ground forces in the invasions of the Gilberts, Marshalls, Marianas and Iwo Jima.

Smith's relationship with the Army and War Department was

not a happy one. The department disapproved of marine generals commanding army units. But Smith was the most success -ful American amphibious operations

commander









of Japanese

infantry, artillery and armour to combat the invading U.S. Marines. Now, we are proud to

announce the

release of six

additional new sets of

dramatic and dynamic Japanese infantry of World War Two to complement your

All of these exciting new figures

collection.

have been thoroughly

Type99 (81mm) Infantry Mortar. IWJ028 "Machine Gun Team". Two

more infantrymen are operating the Type92 Heavy Machine Gun. The "Loader" is feeding the gun, lying on his back, using a "tray clip" of

ammunition. IWJ029 "Anti Tank Team". This two-man team is firing the

Type 97 Automatic Anti-Tank Rifle which fired a 20mm round.

Here the gunner prepares to fire while his loader is replacing an empty magazine with a full one.

IWJ030 "Sniper Group". A three-man section comprising one Sergeant NCO with binoculars "spotting" plus two riflemen using their 6.5 mm "Arisaka" rifles in both sitting and lying prone positions.

CASUALTIES

Of the 21,000 Japanese troops that defended Iwo Jima only a mere handful survived at the end of the battle.

Some Marines take cover as they come under intense Japanese fire. Mount Suribachi is in the background.

researched and detailed to portray latewar soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army as they would have appeared during the Battle of Iwo Jima in IWJ028 February and March 1945.

IWJ025 "General Kuribayashi". The commander of the island's defences and their architect. A career soldier. IWJ027

> he perished with many of his men...his body was never found.

IWJ026 "Rifle Grenade Team". Two Japanese infantrymen prepare to fire their rifle attached grenade...note the special grenade carrying harness on the IW]027 "Mortar Team" Another two-

man set, this pair are firing the small

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