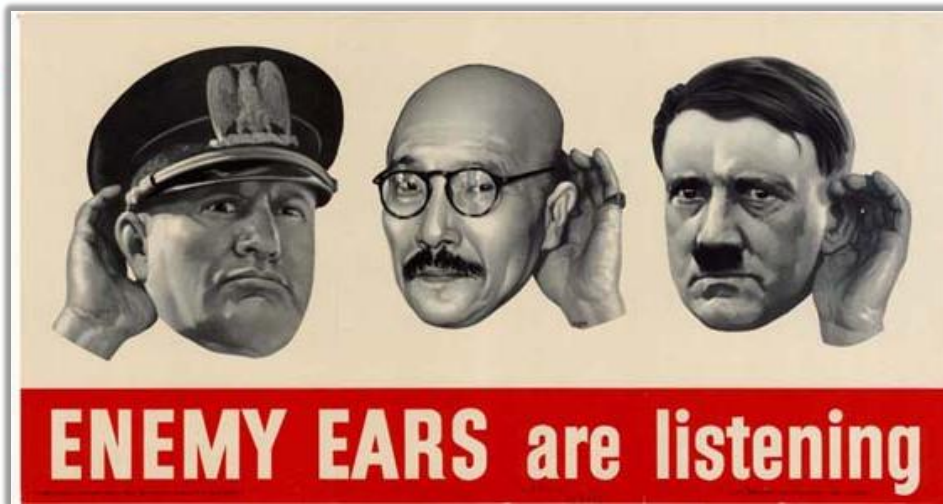




U.S. Wartime Posters



Office of War Information. *Enemy Ears Are Listening*. Illus. by Ralph Illigan. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1942. (OWI Poster No.5). (PR 32.5015:5; Poster, 14" x 26").



U.S. War Department Public Relations Bureau. *We'll Lick'em, Just Give Us The Metal!* Illus. by Ronald McLeod. [Washington, D.C.]: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943. (Army Official Poster). (W 107.8: M 56/3; Poster; 40" x 29").



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A U.S. war loan poster

U.S. Treasury Department. War Finance Division. *Next! Japan, 6th War Loan*. Illus. by Bingham. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1944. (WFD 958-A). (T 66.8: W 19/15; Poster 28" x 20").

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U.S. Navy Department. Marine Corps. *Land with the U.S. Marines: Apply or Write, to Nearest Recruiting Station*. Illus. by Vic Guinness. Philadelphia: McCandlish Litho Corporation, 1942. (Poster, 40" x 28")

Lindberg's enlistment

I went over to Seattle [Washington] and joined.

I thought I wasn't going to get in with my stump finger, but I did. [Editor's note: Mr. Lindberg had lost part of a finger due to an accident.] The guy said, "That's not your trigger finger?" I said "No." He said, "You're accepted." I never forgot that, either. That was good.

Marcello: I guess, by that time, they were already looking for manpower.

Lindberg: Oh, you bet they were.

Marcello: Where did you take your boot camp?

Lindberg: Marine Corps Recruit Depot at San Diego.

Marcello: How long did it last at that time?

Lindberg: Five weeks.

Marcello: How well did that five weeks of boot training prepare you for what you were to face in the Pacific?

Lindberg: It was torture. I was in bad shape, too. I was trucking driving all the time, sitting. Them ol' DIS [drill instructors] got hold of me down there, and they just enjoyed that. But I got seasoned up in a hurry. After five weeks, I was in good shape.

Marcello: What did you learn in boot camp, or what was instilled in you, that was to help you later on, when you go out into the Pacific?

Lindberg: I suppose the main thing was to obey orders.



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Marcello: As you look back, how well do you believe that you were prepared to undertake the kind of missions that would undertake when you got to Iwo Jima. You mentioned that you were training in these extinct volcanoes and so on. How well were you prepared for that kind of combat?

Lindberg: I think that we were well-prepared. We had good men, and they knew what they were doing.

Chalkley: In terms of training, how was the flamethrower employed?

Lindberg: You'd advance on stuff. Riflemen would afford me protection. You'd advance on your target and practice shooting them. You'd work on how to handle them properly. I remember the first flamethrower I ever fired. I stood up straight and fired, and I went over backwards. There is a lot of force--1,200 pounds pressure [per square inch]--on those things.

Marcello: Did it knock you off your feet?

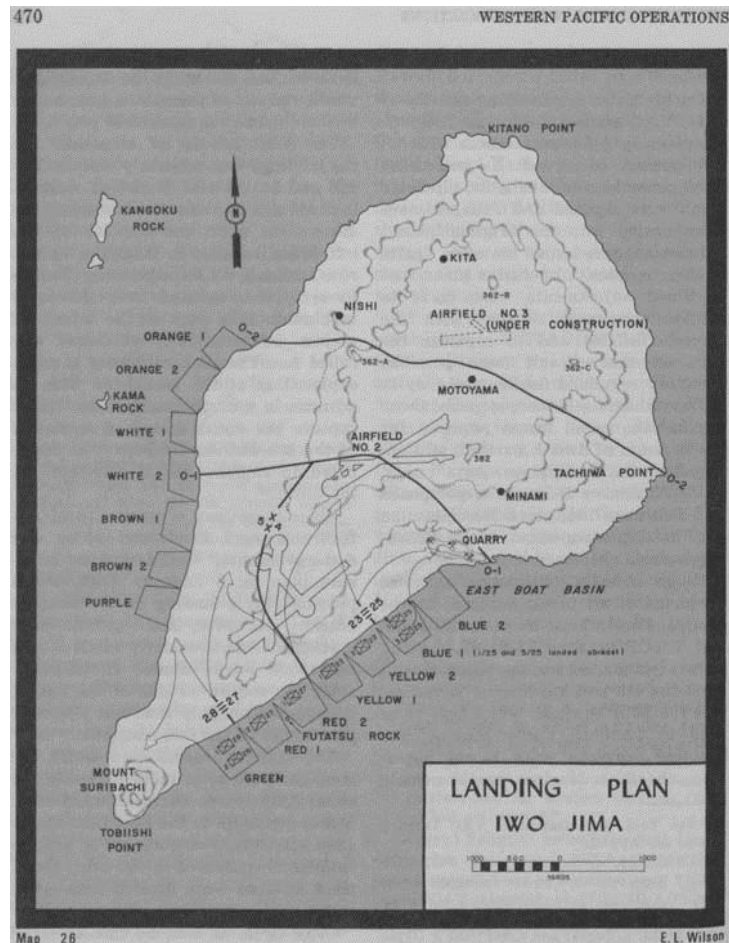
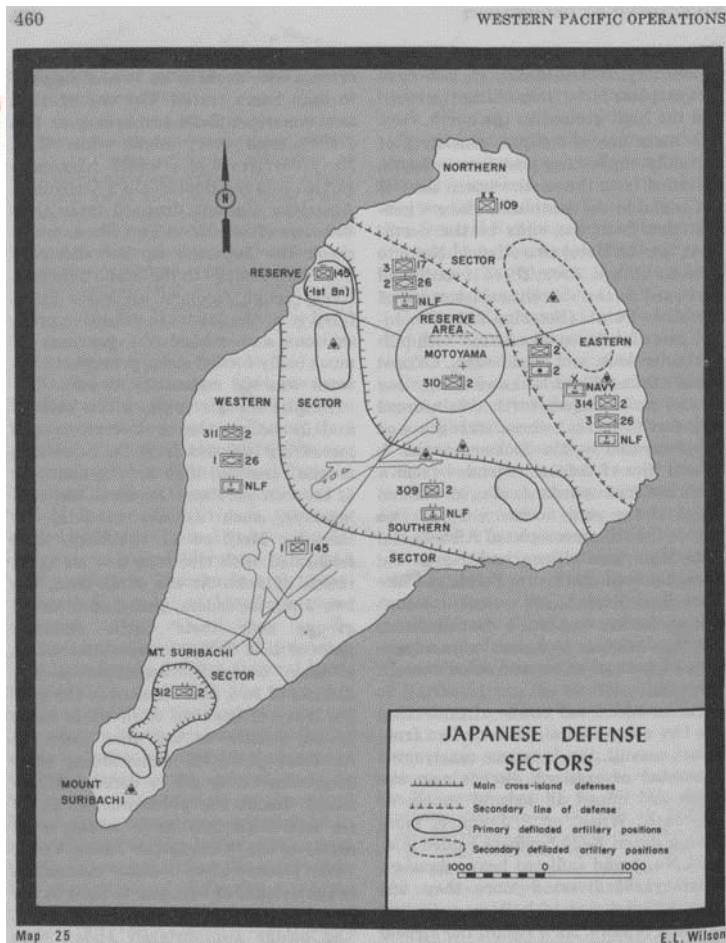
Lindberg: Just about. I wasn't used to it. After that, I leaned into it, and I was fine and dandy. Nobody ever told me. They'd let you find out yourself (chuckle).

Training for the invasion
of Iwo Jima

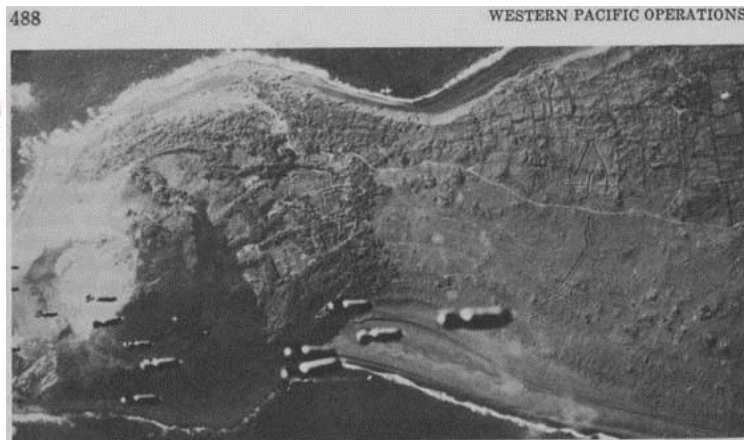
From Charles W. Lindberg,
Oral History Collection



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George W. Garand & Truman R. Strobridge. *Western Pacific Operations: History of the U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II Vol. IV* (Washington D.C. Historical Division HQ, U.S. Marine Corps, 1971)



PREINVASION BOMBING of Iwo Jima by the U.S. Seventh Air Force. Note Mt. Suribachi in left foreground. (USAF 54717 AC)



AERIAL VIEW OF IWO JIMA LANDINGS as assault waves head for the shore. Mt. Suribachi looms in the background. (USN 80-G-415308)

George W. Garand & Truman R. Strobridge
Western Pacific Operations: History of the U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II Vol. IV (Washington D.C. Historical Division HQ, U.S. Marine Corps, 1971)

The amphibious landing

Marcello: Describe your coming in and the landing itself.

Lindberg: When we got close to the shore, they were throwing mortar rounds out. That made you a little "touchy" [uneasy]. We saw some get hit there. A shell would hit over [here], a shell would hit over [there], and you wondered where the next one was going to hit.

Marcello: My reading indicates that your unit went in in about the ninth wave, is that correct?

Lindberg: Yes, the ninth wave.

Marcello: By that time the first groups had already been on shore. Of course, I think they moved about two hundred yards inland, and then all hell broke loose.

Lindberg: That's right. We got backed up on that beach, and then they [the Japanese troops] started really raising hell with us, like you say.

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Destroyed amtracs and other vehicles, victims of Japanese mortar and artillery fire, litter the black sand beaches of Iwo Jima. National Archives and Records Administration PhoM3c. Robert M. Warren, ca. February/March 1945. 26-G-4474



Iwo Jima's terrain

Marcello: So, you were under quite a bit of fire from mortars and so on when you landed.

Lindberg: Absolutely!

Marcello: Describe what the initial terrain was like when you landed.

Lindberg: It was just a heavy, volcanic sand. You took one step forward and would go two steps back. It was really miserable, especially where it went up on sand banks there. I tried to climb one of those. I remember laying on the beach. This is that deal I was going to tell you about, concerning Richard Wheeler. He was sitting alongside of me, and he said, "Hey, 'Chuck,' I've got my first battle star." I said, "Oh, you ain't off this thing yet, you know." Just then, I happened to stick my head over the rim, and a mortar shell hit out there about two feet. A piece of metal hit my helmet, and I came sailing back down. I said, "See what I mean." He wrote that in his book (laughter).

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From Charles W. Lindberg, Oral History Collection

THE STRUGGLE FOR SURIBACHI

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37MM GUN firing on Japanese positions on the slopes of Mt. Suribachi. (USMC 110139)



DEBRIS OF BATTLE litters Iwo beaches on D plus 2. (USMC 110252)

George W. Garand & Truman R. Strobridge
*Western Pacific Operations:
History of the U.S. Marine Corps Operations
in World War II Vol. IV* (Washington D.C.
Historical Division HQ, U.S. Marine Corps, 1971)



The lack of sleep Marines suffered



*United States Army In World War II: Pictorial Record
the War Against Japan. Ed. Kent Roberts Greenfield.
(Washington D.C.: Center of Military History U.S. Army, 2001)*

Chalkley: From the time you hit the beach, until you got wounded and evacuated and back to those nice, clean sheets, how much sleep did you get?

Lindberg: Not too much.

Chalkley: How do you think that was impacting on your performance? How were you able to perform under that deprivation?

Lindberg: It was just something that you learned to do. You learned to sleep some under very bad conditions.

Marcello: When you say that you were not getting too much sleep, how many hours would you estimate that you got on any one night during this period?

Lindberg: If you three hours, you were lucky, because you were awake so much.

Chalkley: Did you feel that really impacted on your performance?

Lindberg: You would still be able to perform. That didn't deter us much.



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IWO JIMA



MARINES FIRING ON ENEMY SOLDIERS hidden in a cave. Two marines wait at the base of a rock while nearer the top one fires an automatic rifle and two others fire a rocket launcher and a .45-caliber submachine gun. The enemy had set up an elaborate system of defenses. The island was honeycombed with caves and connecting tunnels, camouflaged pillboxes and gun positions. Most of the caves had at least thirty-five feet of overhead cover and had not been damaged during the preinvasion bombing and shelling.

IWO JIMA

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FLAME THROWERS burning out enemy troops in a hidden cave while a rifleman waits behind the cover of a rock. One by one the marines knocked out the enemy pillboxes and sealed the caves, gradually breaking down the defense system.

United States Army In World War II: Pictorial Record the War Against Japan.
Ed. Kent Roberts Greenfield. (Washington D.C.: Center of Military History U.S. Army, 2001)



A bunker assault

Marcello: I want to go into this in detail because this is where you get the Silver Star. Tell me about the assault on this bunker from the time it is encountered until you actually do your job on it.

Lindberg: I didn't know how dangerous the bunker was or any darn thing, when I went up there. They said, "Burn it," and that is exactly what I did.

Marcello: What kind of cover were you receiving when you attacked it?

Lindberg: Riflemen were with me. We were kind of in between some stuff there. I know that I got out into the open--I shouldn't have done it--and I started burning it.

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From Charles W. Lindberg,
Oral History Collection



Marcello: When you say that you got out in the open--you rushed the bunker and started burning it--can you be more specific? Are the apertures, openings, that you are dealing with?

Lindberg: Yes, openings.

Marcello: Are you running from opening to opening?

Lindberg: I don't know if I ran from opening to opening. Sometimes you'd get two of them from one, if you do it the right way. Sometimes you just do stuff unconsciously.

Marcello: Are you saying that instincts take over, so to speak, and training?

Lindberg: I think so.

Marcello: I'm assuming that inside one of those bunkers there must have been all sorts of ammunition and grenades and so on. What happens as a result of you dousing or hosing that bunker?

Lindberg: I remember seeing smoke coming out of all corners. There was noise, like explosions. It was really something.

One of Lindberg's
bunker assaults

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"Marines of the 5th Division inch their way up a slope on Red Beach No. 1 toward Surbachi Yama as the smoke of the battle drifts about them." Dreyfuss, Iwo Jima, National Archives and Records Administration February 19, 1945. 127-N-110249.



The Japanese resistance

Lindberg: Oh, we were meeting a lot of resistance. We couldn't see them. They would come up from these holes, fire, and then go back down. We didn't know where in the heck they were. It was really kind of a bad deal.

Marcello: My understanding, from my reading and from talking to some other Marines who were there, is that in some cases the Japanese had actually dug trenches and then zeroed [pre-targeted] mortars in on them, hoping that you guys would go into those trenches. Is that the case?

Lindberg: Yes. They had that precisioned-in [pre-targeted] just like you wouldn't believe. The way they were dropping those mortars, you could not tell when they were coming.



IWO JIMA

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A DUMMY JAPANESE TANK carved in the soft volcanic ash. This tank had previously drawn fire from the attacking U.S. troops.

Japanese deception efforts

United States Army In World War II: Pictorial Record the War Against Japan. Ed. Kent Roberts Greenfield. (Washington D.C.: Center of Military History U.S. Army, 2001)



The first flag raising on Mount Suribachi

Marcello: No Japanese are in evidence. You get to the rim.
Describe what happens next.

Lindberg: We come up on the rim, and we immediately put our men out as flankers on the side of the volcano. Schrier says, "Get the flag up!" Two of our men found this long pipe sitting up there. They brought it over to where we were.

Marcello: I believe it was Robert Leader and Leo Rozek.

Lindberg: Right. Thomas, Hansen, Schrier, and I tied the flag to the pole. Then we carried it up to the highest spot we

From Charles W. Lindberg, Oral History Collection



could find, and there we raised it. When that flag went up, the troops down below started to cheer, and the ships' whistles out in the ocean started in. It was something you would never imagine, the way that took place out there.

Marcello: How did you feel personally?

Lindberg: Very proud. In fact, I felt a surge of patriotism. Something just struck you, and you just shivered all over [Lindberg's voice quivering with emotion]. It was such a showing for the flag, when it went up.

Marcello: I talked to a Marine who was down on the beach, and his reaction was the same, seeing it from the beach. It was just an absolute thrill, and a shiver, like you mentioned.

Chalkley: The cheers from the beach were so loud.

Lindberg: We could hear them up there just as clear as could be. It was like a "WHOOOO!" came from all over that island.

Marcello: I gather that everybody aboard ships and so on had all their binoculars trained on it.

Lindberg: They all had binoculars, and the whistles were going, and the horns were going. I'll tell you, it was something you'll never forget. But it didn't last long. The enemy started coming out of the caves.

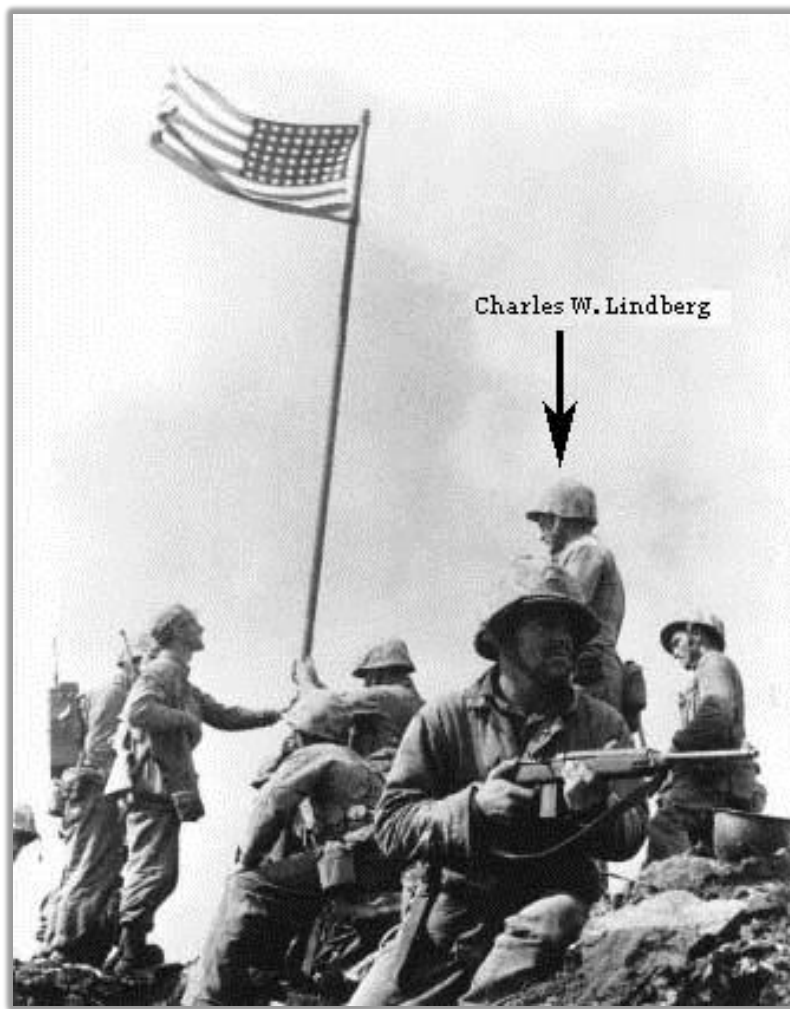
Marcello: The flag is planted, the pole is planted, about 10:20 in the morning [of February 23, 1945], according to the record.

The first flag raising on
Mount Suribachi

From Charles W. Lindberg,
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Sergeant Louis R Lowery's picture of the first flag raising on Mt. Suribachi, the 54in. by 28in. flag was thought too small to be seen from the beach and was replaced by a larger flag. The second flag raising was captured by Associated Press photographer, Joe Rosenthal. His photograph would become one of the war's most iconic images.



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"Flag raising on Iwo Jima." Joe Rosenthal,

Associated Press, National Archives and Records Administration, February 23, 1945. 80-G-413988.

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Primary Source Adventures: Iwo Jima: Forgotten Valor



U.S. Treasury Department. War Finance Division.
7th War Loan, Now, All Together. Illus. by C.C. Beall.
Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing
Office, 1945. (WFD 11). (T 66.8: W 19/26; Poster;
13" x 9").



Lindberg's combat wound

Marcello: Describe this piece of the action, that is, when you get your wound. I'm assuming that you don't know where it came from or who it was.

Lindberg: I don't know where it came from. I was going this way [gesture]. I was shot from this way [gesture]. I was running bent over, and the bullet came through my arm here and through my shirt here and out my shirt pocket over here [gestures]. You can tell that was pretty doggoned close. It hit me from behind.

Marcello: How badly were you wounded?

Lindberg: The ulna bone was shattered. It left me like this [gesture]. That's the way my arm went.

Marcello: In other words, you couldn't get your arms away from your body.

Lindberg: No, I couldn't move this one here [gesture].

Marcello: You couldn't move but just one of the arms.

Lindberg: This one [arm] only has limited rotation.