

STATEMENT BY VICE ADMIRAL TURNER OF 8 MARCH, 1945

To be released after Iwo resistance has ceased

In connection with the announcement that organized resistance has ceased on Iwo Jima it must be understood that many enemy snipers and small parties remain in hideouts on the island. These are well armed and must be eliminated to permit us to proceed with the development of the base. This work will be tedious and perilous and may require weeks of patient effort.

But the major fighting effort is finished. It has been difficult and we have suffered considerable losses on the ground, in the air, and on the sea, as must always be the case where the only possible tactical method is a frontal assault on a well prepared and well defended position. Here we couldn't land "where they ain't." We had to land where they are, and accept the hazards. The fact that our high command, and our battle forces, are willing and able to accept such disadvantages when they must be accepted, indicates our desire to seek early decisions, and our confidence that we can force such decisions.

I can not help but express my whole hearted respect and admiration for these fighting troops of the V Amphibious Corps. Their steadfast courage is magnificent. And even more, and especially to be commended, is the great tactical competence of the generals and all other ranks in the employment of their forces. It is truly remarkable that they have been able, by the adroit movement of troops, and the skilful use of weapons of all kinds including those carried in airplanes and ships, and against a ~~determined~~ ^{fanatical} enemy protected by intricate and thoroughly organized defenses, to capture this island with death casualties less than one sixth of those of the defenders. Such an achievement is almost unbelievable and deserves the highest rank in military history. Economy of losses can reach no higher perfection.