

IWO JIMA



LAT. 24° 47' N LONG. 141° 19' E

The KUKUI's first assault on Iwo Jima was uneventful. The weather was no problem and there were no major complications.

A work party was put ashore to repair holes that had developed in the roads. These holes were caused by underground tunnels (dug by the Japanese during the war) into which portions of the road had sunk.

Cargo operations were finished ahead of the repair crew so the ship set sail for Japan and the work crew flew to Japan two weeks later.

After yard work in Japan the ship returned to Iwo Jima and met with some bad luck. The weather had deteriorated and the surf was running ten to fifteen feet. After a few unsuccessful landings in which the M-Boats were almost broached it was decided that some of the cargo would be floated ashore. Fifty-five gallon drums of asphalt were tied to heaving lines and pushed off of the M-Boats. With the beach crew pulling on the lines it was possible to get the four or five drums ashore. On another landing the boat broached and had to be towed back to the ship. By moving the ship to another side of the island it was possible to finish the work.