

# Atop Mt. Suribachi

## with Sergeant Lou Lowery

Yes, there were two flags raised atop Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945, and both flag raisings were captured on film. The first flag raising occurred around 1030 when an "Easy" Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment patrol, led by First Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, reached the top and raised the flag that the battalion adjutant, 1stLt George G. Wells, had brought ashore from the attack transport *Missoula* (APA-211).

The first flag raising was photographed by *Leatherneck* magazine's Sergeant Louis R. Lowery. One of his photographs, numbered 5 in the following layout, received some degree of recognition but never attained the historic, Pulitzer Prize-winning prominence of the photograph of the second flag raising taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. Rosenthal's photograph became the basis for the The United States Marine Corps War Memorial located in Arlington, Va.

Recently, the Easy Co commander on Iwo Jima, retired Colonel Dave E. Severance, contacted the *Leatherneck* editor about another Lowery photograph that showed a slightly different perspective of the first flag raising. The photo had been printed in the Charlotte Harbor, Fla., *Sun Herald* newspaper. Col Severance's question about the authenticity of this photograph, numbered 6 in the layout, caused a detailed search of the *Leatherneck* negative archives.

It was known that Lowery had two RolleiFlex cameras and reloaded film during the flag raising, but few of his photographs from atop Mt. Suribachi had ever been published in *Leatherneck*. In fact, Lowery's photographs taken on the climb up the side of Mt. Suribachi and his often-published photograph of the first flag raising were not in the magazine until September 1947. The negatives for the majority of the photographs in the following layout were recently uncovered in the *Leatherneck* files. We offer them as a tribute to Lou Lowery and the indomitable spirit of the warriors who fought on Iwo Jima.

—W. G. Ford



1



5



9

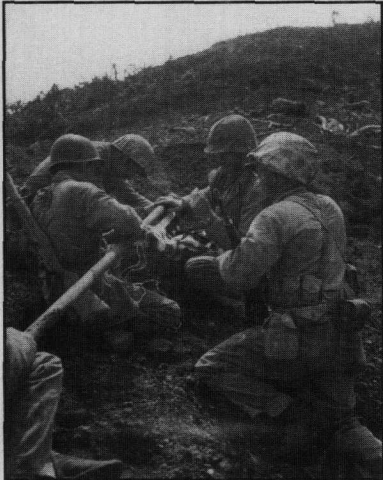


10



11

# \* CORPS ALBUM \*



2



3



4



6



7



8



12



13



14