

VISIONS OF HELL

DURING THIS 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE US NAVY, WE SHOW HOW COMBAT ARTISTS RECORDED DEADLY ACTION DURING WORLD WAR TWO

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ART WORK COURTESY OF THE NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Combat on the Island of Iwo Jima was truly hell on earth. "The Beach at Dusk" is a watercolor and crayon on paper painting by Mitchell Jamieson that at first appears to be peaceful but that is far from the truth. The fighting on Iwo Jima left deep scars on those that participated in some of the Pacific War's deadliest fighting. Darkness sets on a tragic section of beach below Mount Suribachi. Ghost-like in the fading light, the artist captures the debris of war with the entire beach filled with partially buried, rusted, and destroyed weapons of the invasion.



Americans fought for every inch of soil on Sicily. "Red Beach at Gela — 1700, July 10" is a 1943 oil on canvas painting by Mitchell Jamieson. Late afternoon of D-Day at Gela, Sicily, exhausted troops make their way inland over the dunes in unending procession, while an LST, hit a short while earlier, burns fiercely offshore. Wounded are being brought back to the beach to be evacuated aboard the transports. An anti-aircraft position is seen atop the largest dunes and other forces maintaining the beach itself are digging in for the first night on Sicilian soil as they await attacks by determined Germans.

