

# Appendix A

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## *32d Army Staff*

### *Position*

Commander  
Chief of staff  
Senior operations officer  
Army staff officer  
Army staff officer  
Army staff officer  
Army staff officer  
Army staff officer  
Senior deputy staff officer  
Weapons branch chief  
Administration branch chief  
Medical branch chief  
Veterinary branch chief  
Legal affairs branch chief

### *Incumbent*

Lieutenant General Ushijima Mitsuru  
Lieutenant General Cho Isamu  
Colonel Yahara Hiromichi  
Lieutenant Colonel Kimura Masaharu  
Major Jin Naomichi  
Major Miyake Tadao  
Major Kusumaru Kanenori  
Major Nagano Hideo  
Lieutenant Colonel Kuzuno Ryuichi  
Colonel Sakurai Mitsugi  
Colonel Sato Miyoharu  
Colonel Shinoda Shigeyoshi  
Colonel Sato Takehisa  
Major Wada Kazuyoshi

*Source: Okinawa Sakusen, Dai-niji sekai taisen-shi, Rikusenshi-shu 9, Rikusenshi kenkyu fukyukai ed. (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 1968), 260.*



# Appendix B

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## *IJA 32d Army Order of Battle, March 1945*

### Army Units

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Strength</i>
<b>32d Army Troops</b>	
Headquarters .....	1,070
Ordnance Depot .....	1,498
Ordnance Duty Unit .....	150
Field Freight Depot .....	1,167
36th Signal Regiment .....	1,912
Okinawa Army Hospital .....	204
27th Field Water Purification Unit .....	244
Well-Digging Unit .....	34
Defense Construction Unit .....	108
7th Fortress Construction Duty Company .....	322
2d Field Construction Duty Company .....	366
<b>24th Infantry Division</b>	
Headquarters .....	267
22d Infantry Regiment .....	2,796
32d Infantry Regiment .....	2,870
89th Infantry Regiment .....	2,809
42d Field Artillery Regiment .....	2,321
24th Reconnaissance Regiment .....	346
24th Engineer Regiment .....	777
24th Transport Regiment .....	1,158
Signal Unit .....	275
Decontamination Training Unit .....	77
Ordnance Repair Unit .....	57
Veterinary Hospital .....	11
Water Supply and Purification Unit .....	241
1st Field Hospital .....	174
2d Field Hospital .....	181

*Unit**Strength*

## 62d Infantry Division

Headquarters .....	65
63d Brigade Headquarters .....	129
11th Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,091
12th Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,085
13th Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,058
14th Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,085
273d Independent Infantry Battalion .....	683
64th Brigade Headquarters .....	121
15th Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,076
21st Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,080
22d Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,071
23d Independent Infantry Battalion .....	1,089
272d Independent Infantry Battalion .....	683
Engineer Unit .....	255
Signal Unit .....	359
Transport Unit .....	300
Field Hospital .....	371
Veterinary Hospital .....	22

## 44th Independent Mixed Brigade

Headquarters .....	63
2d Infantry Unit .....	2,046
15th Independent Mixed Regiment .....	1,885
Artillery Unit .....	330
Engineer Unit .....	161

## 5th Artillery Command

Headquarters .....	147
1st Medium Artillery Regiment (-) .....	856
23d Medium Artillery Regiment .....	1,143
7th Heavy Artillery Regiment .....	526
100th Independent Heavy Artillery Battalion .....	565
1st Independent Artillery Mortar Regiment (-) .....	613
1st Light Mortar Battalion .....	633
2d Light Mortar Battalion .....	615

## 21st Antiaircraft Artillery Command

Headquarters .....	71
27th Independent Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion .....	505
70th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion .....	513
80th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion .....	517
81st Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion .....	514
103d Independent Machine Cannon Battalion .....	336
104th Independent Machine Cannon Battalion .....	338
105th Independent Machine Cannon Battalion .....	337

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Strength</i>
<b>Machine-Gun Units</b>	
3d Independent Machine-Gun Battalion .....	340
4th Independent Machine-Gun Battalion .....	344
14th Independent Machine-Gun Battalion .....	334
17th Independent Machine-Gun Battalion .....	331
<b>Antitank Units</b>	
3d Independent Antitank Battalion .....	363
7th Independent Antitank Battalion .....	353
22d Independent Antitank Battalion .....	402
32d Independent Antitank Company .....	144
<b>11th Shipping Group</b>	
Headquarters .....	100
7th Shipping Engineer Branch Depot .....	600
23d Shipping Engineer Regiment (-) .....	850
26th Shipping Engineer Regiment (-) .....	550
5th Sea Raiding Base Headquarters .....	42
1st Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
2d Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
3d Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
26th Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
27th Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
28th Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
29th Sea Raiding Squadron .....	104
1st Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	886
2d Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	874
3d Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	877
26th Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	908
27th Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	897
28th Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	900
29th Sea Raiding Base Battalion .....	900
<b>49th Line of Communication Sector</b>	
Headquarters .....	202
72d Land Duty Company .....	508
83d Land Duty Company .....	496
103d Sea Duty Company .....	711
104th Sea Duty Company .....	724
215th Independent Motor Transport Company .....	181
259th Independent Motor Transport Company .....	182
<b>Engineer Units</b>	
66th Independent Engineer Battalion .....	865
14th Field Well Drilling Company .....	110
20th Field Well Drilling Company .....	110

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Strength</i>
19th Air Sector Command	
Headquarters .....	41
29th Field Airfield Construction Battalion .....	750
44th Airfield Battalion .....	377
50th Airfield Battalion .....	360
56th Airfield Battalion .....	380
3d Independent Maintenance Unit .....	120
Makoto 1st Maintenance Company .....	90
118th Independent Maintenance Unit .....	100
6th Fortress Construction Duty Company .....	330
Detachment, 20th Air Regiment .....	27
10th Field Meteorological Unit .....	80
26th Air-Ground Radio Unit .....	117
46th Independent Air Company .....	132
1st Branch Depot, 5th Field Air Repair Depot .....	130
21st Air Signal Unit .....	310
Okinawa Branch, Army Air Route Department .....	359
223d Specially Established Garrison Company .....	200
224th Specially Established Garrison Company .....	200
225th Specially Established Garrison Company .....	200
27th Tank Regiment .....	750
Army Unit Total .....	66,636 <sup>a</sup>

### Navy Units

Okinawa Base Force (Headquarters, Coast Defense, and Anti-aircraft Personnel) .....	3,400
27th Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron .....	200
33d Midget Submarine Unit .....	130
37th Torpedo Maintenance Unit .....	140
Torpedo Working Unit .....	130
81-mm Mortar Battery .....	150
Oroku Transmitting Station .....	30
Naha Branch, Sasebo Naval Stores Department .....	136
Naha Branch, Sasebo Transportation Department .....	136
Naha Navy Yard, Sasebo Naval Base .....	53
Oroku Detachment, 951st Air Group .....	600

<sup>a</sup>This figure represents the total Japanese strength. Included in it, however, are an estimated 5,000 Okinawans, mostly regular conscripts, who were integrated into Japanese units.

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Nansei Shoto Air Group .....	2,000
226th Construction Unit .....	1,420
3210th Construction Unit .....	300
	<hr/>
Navy Unit Total .....	8,825 <sup>b</sup>
Okinawan	
502d Special Guard Engineer Unit .....	900
503d Special Guard Engineer Unit .....	700
504th Special Guard Engineer Unit .....	700
Blood-and-Iron-for-the-Emperor Duty Unit .....	750
<i>Boeitai</i> Assigned to the Army .....	16,600
<i>Boeitai</i> Assigned to the Navy .....	1,100
Students .....	600
Regular Conscripts Not Included Under Army Units .....	2,000
Okinawan Total .....	23,350
Grand Total (Rounded Out)	
Army Units .....	67,000
Navy Units .....	9,000
Okinawans .....	24,000
	<hr/>
Japanese Strength on Okinawa .....	100,000 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>b</sup>This total represents both regular naval ratings and the Japanese, Korean, and Okinawan military civilians who were utilized in the naval land combat organization.

<sup>c</sup>Strength figures have been rounded.

Source: Charles S. Nichols and Henry I. Shaw, *Okinawa: Victory in the Pacific* (Washington, DC: Historical Branch, G-3 Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1955), 302—4.





# Notes

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## Chapter 1

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39. *OHR*S, Enclosed charts 1 and 2; and Nichols and Shaw, *Okinawa*, 56.
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41. Inagaki, 95.
42. *OHR*S, Enclosed chart 2.
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15. Yahara, *Okinawa*, 247; and JM 135, 105.
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35. Ibid., 118.
36. Yahara, *Okinawa*, 292.
37. Ibid.
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43. Appleman, *Okinawa*, 389, 391.
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46. JM 135, 130.
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19. *Ibid.*, 33—34.
20. *Ibid.*, 34.
21. *Ibid.*, 35—36; and JM 135, 144.
22. Inagaki, *Okinawa*, 217.
23. *Ibid.*, 218; and JM 135, 145—47.
24. *OHRS*, map 63, 596; and Appleman, *Okinawa*, Enclosed map 49.
25. JM 135, 143—44.
26. *Ibid.*, 145—47.
27. Inagaki, *Okinawa*, 217.
28. JM 135, 146.
29. *Ibid.*, 144; and Inagaki, *Okinawa*, 217.
30. Appleman, *Okinawa*, 458—59; and 77th ID, “G-2 Periodic Report,” 22 June 1945, 4, and 25 June 1945, 1.
31. JM 135, 147.
32. *Ibid.*, 147—48.
33. 77th ID, “G-2 Periodic Report,” 25 June 1945, 3.



34. Ibid., 3—4.
  35. JM 135—II, 40—41.
  36. Ito interview; and JM 135, 150.
  37. Appleman, *Okinawa*, 473—74; and 10th Army, “G-2 Summary,” Inclosure 4, 1—2.
  38. Inagaki, *Okinawa*, 220; and Appleman, *Okinawa*, 462, 467.
  39. Nichols and Shaw, *Okinawa*, 303—4; and Appleman, *Okinawa*, 473—74.
  40. Inagaki, *Okinawa*, 188.
  41. Appleman, *Okinawa*, 489; and Nichols and Shaw, *Okinawa*, 56—57, 302—4.
  42. 10th Army, “G-1 Periodic Reports,” no. 13, 1—3. Appleman, using the same materials, arrived at similar numbers. See his *Okinawa*, 490.
  43. See 10th Army, “G-1 Periodic Reports,” no. 13, 1—3, and nos. 1 to 14.
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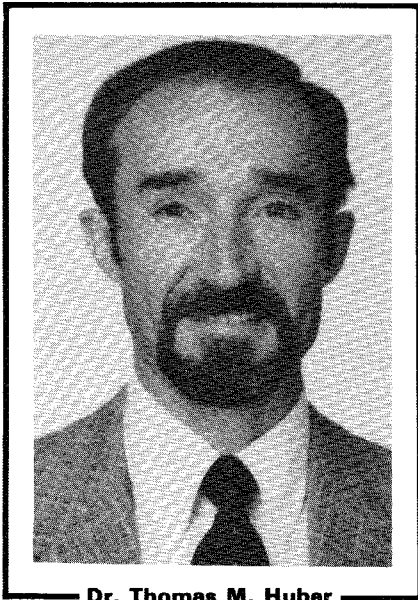
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From April to June 1945, U.S. and Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) forces fought fiercely for control of the island of Okinawa. The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters (IGHQ) had determined after U.S. strikes on Truk in February 1944 that sooner or later the Americans would seize Okinawa as a forward base for the invasion of Japan. The IJA 32d Army was established on Okinawa in March 1944 to forestall this eventuality and immediately faced the challenge of how to deal not only with superior numbers of U.S. troops but also with overwhelming American firepower by air, land, and sea. The 32d Army's innovative staff had one year in which to invent and implement a new form of underground warfare that would be proof against the Americans' abundant bombs and tanks. Their methods were devised in the field in defiance both of the IJA's traditional light infantry doctrine and of IGHQ's preoccupation with air power. The 32d Army's answer was an ingenious system of fire-port caves, dug into hilltops and ridges, with interlocking fires, and with more elaborate headquarters caves built well in the rear.

The amphibious landing of four divisions of U.S. troops on 1 April 1945 confirmed IJA 32d Army Staff's worst fears about the U.S. challenge. Operations Officer Yahara Hiromichi successfully restrained the 32d Army from attacking on the beaches instead of cleaving to its protective caves. Nonetheless, the 32d Army immediately found itself torn by the dilemma of whether to mount a dashing sacrificial attack or to do the more patient work of fighting from the caves.

Within a few weeks, new tactical patterns evolved on Okinawa. U.S. tanks moved forward into dead spaces between cave port fire zones, escorted by infantry. The Japanese, to protect their cave openings, put infantry on the surface to drive back the tank-infantry teams. The result was searing clashes between small units of U.S. and Japanese infantry for the protection of tanks and cave fire ports respectively.

Between 1 April and 4 May, U.S. troops moved slowly but steadily into the Japanese main defensive line of caves north of Shuri on the Okinawa isthmus. By 4 May, however, seeing their position seriously eroded, IJA 32d Army Staff members had cast off Yahara's caution and launched a major counterattack in the open against U.S. forces. This was a gesture that conformed to standard IJA doctrine of bold attack, but it had disastrous results. Losses were high, and U.S. forces were not dislodged.

The IJA 32d Army positions around Shuri continued to erode so that by 29 May the 32d Army was forced to retreat to a freshly prepared line at the extreme south end of the island. By this point, Japanese combat-trained troops had mostly become casualties so that support troops manned the Japanese line. Vigorous attacks by U.S. soldiers and marines, using flamethrower tanks, cut through these positions quickly after 9 June. The IJA rear-area headquarters were finally threatened so that by 22 June most major unit commanders had committed ritual suicide and ordered surviving soldiers to fight on as long as they could, then do the same. Some of these surviving IJA soldiers unfortunately committed atrocities against the civilian population, and only a small percentage surrendered. By the time the fighting stopped, U.S. casualties of all kinds, including wounded and noncombat injuries, were also high, exceeding 70,000, about equal to the number of IJA regular troops that had defended the island.

The IJA 32d Army held out for ten weeks against overwhelming U.S. firepower, including airborne firepower. It did so by the then novel method of moving its whole force underground, then relying on the not so novel method of boldly contesting the no-man's-land in front of the caves foot by foot in a manner reminiscent of World War I.