

UNITED STATES ARMY IN WWII  
THE PACIFIC

**Okinawa: The Last Battle**



## **United States Army in WWII - the Pacific - Okinawa: the Last Battle: [Illustrated Edition]**

*Roy E. Appleman, James M. Burns, Russell A. Gugeler, John Stevens*

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[Includes 2 tables, 3 charts, 21 maps and 88 illustrations]

On 3 October 1944 American forces in the Pacific Ocean Areas received a directive to seize positions in the Ryukyu Islands (Nansei Shoto). Okinawa is the most important island of the Ryukyu Group, the threshold of the four main islands of Japan. The decision to invade the Ryukyus signalized the readiness of the United States to penetrate the inner ring of Japanese defenses. For the enemy, failure on Okinawa meant that he must prepare to resist an early invasion of the homeland or surrender.

The present volume [Of the United States Army in WWII series] concerns one of the most bitterly fought battles of the Pacific war, in which the Army, the Marine Corps, and the Navy all played a vital part. In order to make the Army's role and the campaign as a whole as intelligible as possible the historians have treated in detail the operations of the Marine Corps units attached to Tenth Army, and have also sketched the contribution of the Navy both in preliminary operations against Okinawa and in the campaign itself. Another characteristic of this as of other volumes on Pacific campaigns is that tactical action is treated on levels lower than those usually presented in the history of operations in the European theaters. The physical limitations of the terrain fought over in the Pacific restricted the number and size of the units which could be employed and brought into sharp focus the operations of regiments, battalions, and smaller units. A wealth of verified material on such operations is available for all theaters, but it is only that of the Pacific which can be used extensively, since in other theaters the actions of smaller units are lost in the broad sweep of great distances and large forces. The description of small-unit action has the merit of giving the nonprofessional reader a fuller record of the nature of the battlefield in modern war, and the professional reader a better insight into troop leading.

## **United States Army in WWII - the Pacific - Okinawa: the Last Battle: [Illustrated Edition] Details**

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## **From Reader Review United States Army in WWII - the Pacific - Okinawa: the Last Battle: [Illustrated Edition] for online ebook**

### **Howard Congleton says**

#### **Great Book.**

Fantastic detail. Really enjoyed this book. Had no idea that the U.S losses were so high.

Surprised at tree the number of tank losses.

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### **Kenneth Picklesimer says**

#### **Excellent**

Excellent book for those who wants the facts and tactics with a few stories mixed in. I recommend this book.

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### **Adam Gutschenritter says**

The play by play of the strategy to capture Okinawa. Very, Very detailed on the tactics and reasons each choice was made.

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### **Louis Mines says**

The book is very interesting and difficult to sit down once started reading has a lot of interesting facts concerning geography and history a strong book for information. The only thing I didn't care for was the maps were to small and light to be ale to see.

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### **Larry Wilson says**

#### **Good book!**

I felt that it was too detailed when naming each and every company and squad in each conflict. Good book.

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### **Kevin says**

I am rating the Kindle version, otherwise it would have been a 5 star. Probably the best Kindle military history book I have purchased. Got this one for .99 too. Contrary to my last review of a Kindle book for

military history, this one was outstanding. The only downgrade was because there were no pictures. The maps were good, you could blow them up to see them well, and they were still readable. As far as the book itself goes, well it is outstanding. It is an operational history, so while there is a good amount of detail, and a few anecdotes, it focuses on the larger view of the battle. It was compiled by the armed forces and is pretty complete, including operations against the outlying islands, supply issues, and tactics. I would highly recommend this book in any form.

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### **Jane Thompson says**

#### **World War II Story**

This the best, the most organized of any relating a battle I have read. Unfortunately, there are many errors in the text. It describes the terrain, the battles, along with individual actions and the actions of those who won the Congressional Medal of Honor. I did not know that the battle of Okinawa was so hard fought

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### **John Rhoads says**

#### **Five stars because all that detail was readable**

Post Wwii I was stationed on okinawa four years. Discovered the natives to be likeable thru a game one the very oldest I encountered allowed me to observe he and a friend spent playing. I understood it to be called "go". Simple enough that even I understood how to play, but it took me many hours of watching to begin to understand the logic involved and before I was invited to play a game. I did not learn the language, just the rules of the game. It was a fascinating experience. I was truly honored after I finally won a game. After reading "the last battle" it became obvious that the old men I was hanging out with were likely very Active participants in the Last battle. The natives today once again ,live under the Japanese flag. It is too bad because as a people they could teach us a great deal, especially about eating a diet largely of rice, fish, and vegetables.

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### **Susan Miller says**

#### **Technical and yet personal.**

Technical and personal.

The people on both sides were fairly described, in their capabilities and supply abilities: man power and ammunitions.

Not my era, but educational.

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### **Jeff Dawson says**

Truly a great historical account of this devastatingly, bloody battle.

I've always wondered why Iwo Jima receives all the accolades when Okinawa was anything but a sideshow to the War in the Pacific. This was the most horrific three month campaign the Army, Navy and Marines were thrust into.

When we read about the Pacific theater, we think about the Marines and that's about it. I am not trying denigrate this excellent branch of our military by any means. But if weren't for the army, the capture of this island would not have been possible. The army troops fought side by side with their comrades in arms and bled just as much. They showed courage, cunning, valor and honor all through this terrible battle.

For anyone who doesn't believe we should have dropped the bomb on Nagasaki or Hiroshima, you must read this book. Okinawa is roughly 600 hundred square miles. We killed 110,000 troops at a loss of 49,000 casualties. Lost over 700 hundred planes and had almost 400 ships sunk and damaged. The battle took three months. Can you imagine the casualties we would have sustained going in the islands of Japan? Okinawa, but European standards had been blown off the face of the Earth by naval, air and artillery fire and still, the Japanese were not defeated. Or men had to dig them out yard by yard. The accounts in this book show exactly how fanatical and determined the enemy and civilians were to not giving up.

If you haven't figured out by now, this is a great story written by the Army right after the battle. The only drawback is the editing. I don't understand what the hell is going on with the publishing houses! This book is packed with them. But I'll be damned if I was going to let that get in the way of this great story.

Who will like this? Any and all World War Two historians and novices.

Four Stars

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### **diane cooney says**

Excellent well written account of the last Battle with Japan in the second world war, what a traumatic story for America & Japan and the young lives lost for the Greed of a few .

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### **Kevin Lynch says**

Very detailed account of the battle. The vicious nature of the day to day combat very evident in this account. The spirit and courage of the troops on both side is remarkable.

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### **clinton Littlefield says**

Wow. I did not know that this battle was so very gruesome. There may have been too much detail, but when I came to the parts I was most interested, the detail was appropriate. I was also under the impression that the Marines had more success. In this instance, the Japanese fought both the Army and the Marines to almost daily failures. The good news is the perseverance shown by our troops. These men make me proud to be an American. The Japanese also showed their worth as a foe. I think that the decision to use the atomic bomb was appropriate considering how the battles would have been if we had to invade Japan. Excellent book based on the content.

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**Dale Diddock says**

**Exhaustively detailed chronicle of Army action during the Battle of Okinawa. A must read for scholars of American military history. On**

e drawback, however. Photos are of poor quality, often too faded or puffy to make sense of. Still, I would recommend it just as it is.

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