

HEADQUARTERS  
U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
APO #234  
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 519

PLACE: Tokyo.  
DATE: 13 Dec. '45

Division of Origin: Military Analysis Division, Ground Branch.

Subject: Supply and Defense of Okinawa.

Personnel interrogated and background of each.

Lt. Col. JIN, a air staff officer with 32nd Army from March 1945 to June 1945, carried on staff and liaison work between Okinawa, Formosa, and Japanese mainland. He graduated from Officers Training School, 2nd Lt. in Oct 1932. Promoted to 1st Lt. in 1936 he was sent to air school in Shinashizu. JIN was promoted to Captain in 1937 while an officer in the 3rd Air Regiment. He transferred to the 29th Air Wing as Division Air Officer in 1939. In December of the same year he attended Army War College where he was promoted to a Major in 1940. In 1941 he graduated from war college and later in the same year attended Air Officers Training School. He became Staff Officer in GHQ from October 1942 until June 1944 when he was attached to the Hq of Prince Higashi Kuni. In January 1945 he became Air Officer in the 8th Air Division. In March of the same year he was transferred to the 32nd Army Stationed at Okinawa and was promoted to Lt. Col, while acting as Air Staff & Ln Officer in the 32nd Army.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Lt. Col. Shine.

Interpreter: Mr. Harvey Colton.

Allied Officers Present: Lt Bock.

SUMMARY

Lt. Col. JIN, while primarily interested in Air Liaison work; had some knowledge of defense and supply of Okinawa. In his opinion the supply problem on Okinawa was not the cause for the loss of that base. He feels that the loss of Japanese air power due to our air strikes on Formosa and the Japanese islands caused the losing of the base much sooner than expected.

Although Japan did not feel they could hold Okinawa, the defense and supplies were built up for a delaying action against a possible invasion of the home islands. Four months supply of ammunition, with the exception of 15 cm shells and land mine fuses, was in the units at the time of our invasion. An attempt was made to furnish these shortages from Formosa but failed due to our Naval blockade.

All units had sufficient rice and other military supplies to last until September of 1945; but were unable to move them in their Southernward retreat due to our heavy surface shelling. Disposition of troops, supply problem and status of heavy equipment is taken up in the following questions and answers.



- Q. What was your job in the 32nd Army?  
A. Air Staff Officer and Liaison Officer in 32nd Army. Carried on Liaison between Okinawa, Formosa and the mainland. Attached to No. 6 Air Army in July 1945 Fukuoka, Kyushu.
- Q. What equipment was on Okinawa?  
A. Rice from Formosa and ammunition and other supplies from Kyushu bases.
- Q. What was the quantity of supplies carried on Okinawa?  
A. Ammunition - One Kaisen-bun (4 Months supply). Rice - 6 months supply for all troops.
- Q. What was the number of troops as of March 1945?  
A. Army troops - 72,000. Naval personnel - 7,000 to 8,000 including special landing troops and guard units.
- Q. How were troops equipped?  
A. Only shortages were 15 cm shells and land mine fuses.
- Q. How many divisions in the 32nd Army?  
A. 62nd Division was at Shuri; 24th Division at south of island and the 44th Brigade on the east side. The 62nd Division came from China.
- Q. Were the troops well trained?  
A. The 62nd was not too well trained.
- Q. Had they ever seen combat?  
A. They saw some action in China but mostly guerrilla warfare.
- Q. Was the 62nd Division well equipped?  
A. Yes.
- Q. How much equipment?  
A. 62nd had no artillery; 24th Division had thirty heavy field pieces.
- Q. How about the 44th Brigade?  
A. No artillery.
- Q. Did the Naval units have artillery?  
A. They had some 10 cm pieces.
- Q. Where did heavy artillery come from or was it there all the time?  
A. In March of 1944 the Navy said they had sufficient force to secure the island, although in March 1944 army artillery such as Howitzers and 15 cm's were brought in from the mainland. (one bn of 15 cm).
- Q. How much ammunition was brought in with these pieces?  
A. One Kaisen-bun came with the troops.
- Q. What was the general plan of supplying these troops - did you have large or small dumps?  
A. Just prior to the invasion supplies were distributed to units.
- Q. Did air strikes damage army dumps?  
A. No.
- Q. Did any supplies come from mainland during invasion?  
A. No.



INTERROGATION NO. 9 (Cont'd).

Q. Did they try?

A. They tried to get 15 cm shells and fuses for land mines but the Naval blockade stopped shipments.

Q. Did this hamper operations?

A. Yes.

Q. What were the critical shortages that developed during operations?

A. Shortage of 15 cm ammunition.

Q. How did shortage of 15 cm shells effect fighting ability of troops?

A. Not much.

Q. How much longer could they have held out if they'd have had sufficient supplies?

A. Shelling from the Navy caused a large part in inefficiency of the troops.

Q. How long had they been preparing Okinawa for defense?

A. In March 1944 supplies arrived and installations were set up in the fall of the same year.

Q. What was the cause for the fall of Okinawa?

A. The Air Force played a large part of destroying Japanese air support.

Q. How long did Japan feel they could hold Okinawa?

A. It was only used as a delaying action.

Q. Were the Okinawa troops organized the same as other troops?

A. I do not know.

Q. Did they cut the equipment of troops on the homeland to supply Okinawa?

A. I do not know.



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