

PM

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Jap Suicide Plan Fails At Okinawa

Futile Raids

Show Desperate State of Jap Defenses

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The Japanese are making frenzied and costly attempts at Okinawa to stem our advance toward the home islands, but their efforts appear no more successful than they were in the Philippines and Iwo Jima.

With every move forward that we make, the enemy's countermoves become more desperate—more hit-and-miss.

His most clearly conceived defense plan was tried in the battle of the Philippines. The scheme was supposed to work something like this:

Garrison troops were to fall back before our invasion forces until our lines were extended. American transports would be under attack from the moment of the landings but the fury of the offensive would grow with the approach of the Japanese fleet, aiming at a knockout blow. Japanese ground troops would then mop up our stranded units.

Didn't Work

Smashing of the enemy task force, however, scotched that plan and the Japanese had to resort to a "bleeding" rear guard action which ultimately developed into a death stand. Joining in this suicide tactic, special Kamikaze units of the enemy air force, were dispatched against our fleet warships and merchantmen as a last desperate attrition action, but they failed to do any appreciable damage to the invasion forces.

On Okinawa, the pattern is being repeated but naval units have been added to the Kamikaze suicide squads. These measures are proving no more effective than previous efforts. The attacks Wednesday and Thursday in which over 218 Japanese suicide planes were destroyed only managed to inflict superficial damage to our 5th Fleet.

Futile Jap Defense

Air Plants Hit

We are taking precautionary steps to neutralize Japanese air power on the home islands as the heavy assault on Tokyo Friday by more than 400 Superforts indicates.

Reconnaissance photographs photographs show that the destructive fire bombs wiped out more than 90 per cent of the giant Mitsubishi Aircraft factory which is the principal assembly plant in Japan.

These B-29 raids have a direct bearing on the Okinawa campaign, as the Japanese are now reduced to sending their planes into the front lines directly from the assembly lines. The main concentration of Japanese air power had been eliminated in the devastating carrier plane raids which preceded the Okinawa landings.

British carrier attacks being launched against Formosa are also a part of our counter measures to reduce the possibility of enemy suicide strikes. More than 100 naval planes smashed at airdromes along the western coast Friday with "good" results, concentrating on installations at Keelung, Taihoku and Shinchiku in the north, only 175 miles from Okinawa.

The inability of the Kamikaze and special attack naval units to weaken the strength of our fleet supporting the land forces, means that the garrison on Okinawa is in a hopeless position.

While the Japanese have succeeded in holding up our advance for seven days, they cannot hope to continue to do so much longer in the face of the devastating bombardment which is being heaped upon them from big navy rifles and heavy land guns.

Jap Progress in China

Only in China is the enemy making any progress with his defense plans. The invaders are thrusting spearheads towards Chihkiang after forcing the abandonment of the 14th Air Force base at Laohokow. The Chinese, however, recaptured Laohokow in a counter-attack Friday.

The Japanese are knifing westward from the former American airdrome at Paoking in the direction of Sian. Should they succeed in their offensive, they will have eliminated the three big bases in central China from which we have been raiding Japanese air bases and communications at Shanghai, Peiping and along the Yangtze River.

If we lose Chihkiang and Sian, Japanese positions in north China and Manchuria will be secure.