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The Battle Diary of Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, 1945

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The Battle Diary of Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, 1945

edited by A.P. Jenkins

Introduction

This is a preliminary edition of the wartime diary of Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner, comprising the entries relating to the Okinawa Campaign of the Pacific War. The purpose of this proleptic version is to elicit comments, constructive criticism and further information before a more fully annotated version, in conjunction with an edition of the General's battle letters to his family, is published in book form.

I am extremely grateful to Mr William Claiborne Buckner, the General's son, and to his daughter, Mrs Mary Buckner Brubaker, for their permission and encouragement in this venture. The manuscript volumes of their father's diary are in Mr Buckner's keeping in Kansas City, Missouri. He has done a great deal to facilitate the production of this edition by kindly reading through my initial transcripts and offering his valuable advice with difficult readings. The General's hand is less clear in a document written for his own record than in the letters which were intended for others to read.

Indeed, it is legitimate to ask why he kept a diary since to do so was very strictly against military regulations. It would seem arguable that he had it in mind later to write the memoirs of a varied military career which might well have had more to offer had he not been killed in Okinawa. The diary entry for May 17 and the letter to his son of June 16 reveal his longing to be involved in an invasion of mainland Japan.

What follows is a 'diplomatic transcript'; that is to say the text seeks to represent as faithfully as possible the form of the original manuscript in so far as printing allows. The following standard conventions have been adopted: square brackets [] represent editorial interpolation, while pointed brackets < > represent interlineated text in the original. Words which Buckner underlined have been italicised. It is regrettable that there has been no opportunity to examine the original manuscripts since some textual matters and details of the text medium only become apparent on such an examination. Most obviously, the volume cannot be given a full archival standard description. Suffice it here to say that each day is accorded a separate page with the date printed at the top. Also printed is the numbered day of the year and the number of days yet to run. Three pages between these March to June entries have printed memoranda on Federal Income Tax obligations. Each page measures approximately 13.5x20.5cms. in the photocopy version held by the editor.

Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., was born in 1886 in Kentucky, the son of the Confederate Civil War general. He was commander of the West Point Military Academy but resigned in 1940 on being given the Alaska Defense Command. In 1942 his forces drove the Japanese from Attu, and then moved on to occupy Kiska after the Japanese had abandoned it. When Okinawa was targeted as the next stage in the war against Japan after the Philippines and Iwo-jima, Buckner was selected to lead the Tenth Army in the invasion. At Maesato in Itoman, on one of his regular inspection visits to the front, a Japanese artillery shell fragment struck him in the chest and killed him. It was June 18, 1945. Other versions have it that he was killed by a coral fragment dislodged by a Japanese shell, and, against all the evidence, that he was killed by an Okinawan schoolgirl carrying a grenade. He had died 'with his boots on'

as he had told his son he wished to. His command in Okinawa did not lack controversy. As an Army general, he was judged to have sidelined the Marines under his command, but more seriously he was accused of tardiness in pressing the attack on the Japanese positions. This is attributed to his inexperience as a commander of offensive operations, his experience having lain in defensive strategy and tactics in Alaska.

Students of the Battle of Okinawa may be glad to have the General's own view of the progress of the campaign in printed form, his justification of his pace when under pressure from press criticism and conditions on the ground, his relations with other senior officers, his comments on the relative progress of Army and Marine units, his views of Okinawa, the Okinawans, and their relations with the Japanese, his frank interpretation of and recommendations for Okinawa's place in post-war strategic and political structures (April 23), comments on wartime social life, and psychological warfare (April 30). As complementary material, it will be a major boon to scholars to have the promised parallel text in the *shin ken shi* (New Prefectural History) volume of reports and commentary on the Okinawa Campaign reproduced from leading US newspaper articles in 1945.

Foot-noting thus far accomplished has been undertaken to try primarily to provide basic information on those personalities mentioned who were involved in the Okinawa Campaign. Many of those mentioned in the context of the fighting in the Philippines have not been covered. The sources consulted include those in the bibliography as well as advice and comments kindly provided by Drs. Armando Sanchez and Gordon Warner.

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Abbreviations used in the text and notes

AA(A)	Anti-aircraft (artillery)
Adm	Admiral
Art(y)	Artillery
BB	Battleship
Bn(s)	Battalion(s)
Brig Gen	Brigadier General
cap [CAP]	? combat air patrol
Capt	Captain
CB	Construction battalion
Chg	Charge
C-I-C	Commander in Chief
Cincpaa	Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Area
C of S	Chief of Staff
Col	Colonel
Comdg	Commanding
Comdr	Commander
CP	Command post
Div	Division
DSM	Distinguished Service Medal
FA	field artillery
Fld	field
G-3, G-4	G-3 intelligence, G-4 supply division
Gen	General
Hq, Hqrs	Headquarters
Inf	Infantry
Iscom	Island Command
Jap(s)	Japanese
LST	Landing ship for tanks
Lt	Lieutenant
Maj	Major
Maj Gen	Major General
Mar	Marine
Mardiv	Marines Division
Mch	March
mm	millimeter
N.C.O.s	Non-commissioned officers
N.Y.	New York
OP	Observation post
POA	Pacific Ocean Area
PBY	Flying patrol boat
Penn	Peninsula
Phibcorps	Amphibious Corps
PT	Patrol torpedo boat
RCT	Regimental combat team(s)
Recon	Reconnaissance

Regt	Regiment
Sgt	Sergeant
SW Pac	South West Pacific
TF	Task Force
TNT	trinitrotoluene high explosive
UDT	Underwater Demolition Team
USMC	United States Marine Corps
VE	Victory in Europe (day)
yd	yard
3c, 3e	Code names for Operation Iceberg, stages c & e

The Text

Wednesday March 7: Having slept so much on the plane yesterday, we were all slept out by 5:30 AM and got up.

Maj Borre took us for a jeep tour of the island after breakfast, winding up at the plane. We took off at 8:12 AM. Major Gen Wood, Comdg the Marine air wing saw us off.

8 hours later, arrived at Guam. Schick, Dumas & I were given Lamar's house next to the Morris' at Cincpao's Hq. and the others were billited [sic] with the Island Comdr. Gen Larsen.

Saw Mc.Morris, Adm Spruance¹ & his C of S, Adm Davis at the first-named's house.

After supper there Adm Spruance, Adm's Davis & McMorris had a conflag with us on air command relationships which was entirely satisfactory and flexible enough for all purposes.

Spruance got aboard his flagship after supper with a view to sailing in the morning.

¹ Raymond Spruance, Adm, alternate chief with Fleet Adm William 'Bull' Halsey of Nimitz's Pacific Ocean Area (POA) battle fleet

Thursday March 8: Looked over Phase III study handed us by Gen Mondell.

After lunch met plane with Post,¹ Wallace, Blakelock, Davidson, Nold (Harris) and others.

Expect Turner's ship in Mch 10²

Post brought a bottle of Crème de Menthe from Mrs. Ackerstrom and a walrus tooth Eskimo carving of a death mask from Charley Madsen.

The Navy lives well ashore. They make themselves far more comfortable than the Army. Their houses are better, they are well furnished, including rugs, curtains double and single beds, wicker and overstuffed furniture, mess china, mess boys and every comfort. At Adm Nimitz' mess now presided over by Adm McMorris, the officers assemble at 6:30 for cocktails and have a very gay party before 7:00 PM ("1900") dinner.

Adm Wright was in for dinner tonight.

A Harmon³ search plane reported that at about noon today he saw two life rafts tied together between Johnstown & [?Rohu] with gulls and debris around them and at least one living man on a raft. He circled and observed carefully in conditions of low visibility. A destroyer is on its way to the scene. Probably imagination like similar reports in [the] past.

¹ Brig Gen Elwyn D. Post, 10th Army C of S

² Vice Adm Richmond K. Turner, responsible for taking the 10th Army to Okinawa (see Leckie, p.51)

³ Lt Gen Millard F. Harmon, commanding the Army Air Forces (POA) under Nimitz, was overdue by air and was presumed lost at sea.

Friday March 9: From Leyte comes word that S.W. Pac. has declined again to live up to agreements, this time regarding replacements for the XXIV Corps.

Saturday March 10: Nothing seems to have materialized from the Harmon clue of two days ago.

A good report came from the 300 plane bombardment of Tokyo this morning by B-29s.

Rear Adm Perry, formerly of Kodiak, arrived today. He expects to be with me in charge of an escort carrier division.

Arranged for press conference <tomorrow> with all war correspondents who are to accompany us.

Sunday March 11: *Started taking alabrine/c*¹

The life rafts and living survivors reported on Mar 8 turned out to be two kapok life preserves from a wrecked navy plane and no survivors at all. People's eyes fool them when they are excited.

Had 11:00 a.m. press conference. Laid emphasis on equal publicity for all services and the desirability of reaching down as far as possible to lower units and N.C.O.s. Also including staff officers, who are usually overlooked.

Adm. Turner came in on his flagship at noon. He had dinner with us at Adm. McMorris['] mess. Afterwards we saw colored movies of the Iwo Jima fight. Someone brought in four Red Cross girls for the movies. I was invited to join them on another party later but declined.

We expect to board Adm. Turner's ship tomorrow.

(On the way back from the office this afternoon I met 1st Lt Herman who lived with Buckey² at Valley Forge.³ I told him I would give him Buckey's address if he came at 9:00 AM tomorrow.)

¹ written next to the date

² Capt. Simon Bolivar Buckner, 3rd, signal corps officer in North Africa and Italy, the General's eldest child

³ a residential military academy high school

Monday March 12: Herman didn't show up for Buckey's address.

Adm. Creasey of the British navy, their head submarine officer, and

some of his staff were in for lunch. After lunch we went out with Adm. Turner in his barge and boarded our command ship the Eldorado (Capt. [blank]). We sailed shortly before six, a long-looked-forward-to occasion.

After sailing, Turner took me aside and dwelt on the difficulties and uncertainties of our mission which he characterizes as a "son of a bitch" and asked what I thought about it. I expressed confidence and started to argue him out of his misgivings. I found then that he wasn't worried at all but was trying to find out if I was.

After supper, Turner talked to Post and myself about the shore party set-up of the Marines whom he has less confidence in along these lines than he has in Army units. He said that the Marine shore party work at Iwo Jima was poor, particularly that of the <V> Corps & the 4th Div.

We heard this afternoon that Adm Oldendorf and his chief of staff had been badly injured at Ulithe when their small boat collided with a buoy. Oldendorf was to have been our gun support officer.

Tuesday March 13: All day the Eldorado zigzagged westward escorted by the destroyer <Putnam>. Some of the gun crews drilled with dummy shells on a dummy gun, the idea being to acquire speed in loading. The skies are clear, the trade wind is with us and a moderate swell gives a little life to the ship. The destroyer stays about a mile ahead of us.

During the morning I finished "Japan and the Japanese" and spent a while on the "flag bridge" with Adm. Turner.

We had cooked breakfast and Guam beans for lunch. During the afternoon read most of the "Pacific World" - Osborne.

There is very little life in the sea - no birds and only an occasional lonely flying fish.

After supper, Adm Turner repeated his conversation of last night almost verbatim. He is still leary of shore parties and thinks the Marines know little about moving their supplies off the beaches and won't take experienced advice.

He doesn't consider Gen's Geiger¹ nor Schmidt very intelligent. He regards Erskine as the best Div Comdr in the V [am]Phib[ious] corps and doesn't admire the other two.

¹ Maj Gen Roy Geiger, commander of the First, Second and Sixth Marine Divisions on Okinawa, Buckner's deputy. After Buckner's death he assumed overall command.

Wednesday March 14: A couple of small balloons were released before lunch and shot at by the anti-aircraft guns aboard. The shooting was rotten.

Finished reading the "Pacific World" and started "Mountain Growth" - Hobbs - a very enlightening discussion of present island, mountain and volcano development in the Pacific.

Thursday March 15: Adm Turner didn't show up for lunch.

Flying fish in considerable numbers seen. Also one white gull-like bird passed us going east. He was barely visible and did not sail much.

A P.B.Y. plane flew over us. Another was reported yesterday but I didn't see it.

Smoothed out the trigger pull on my pistol. [Adm] Turner missed supper also.

After supper I read and also got about caught up on letter writing, if such a thing is possible.

Friday March 16: About 9:30 am. we came into Leyte Gulf and went to a berth opposite Adm Kincaid's Hqrs of the 7th Fleet. Harbor full of

ships of all kinds.

Adm Davis, Comdng a sort of amphibious rear echelon came aboard with some of his staff including Jimmy Roosevelt.

After lunch, Post, Hubbard¹ & I went with Adm. Turner and called on Kincaid and on Gen MacArthur's Hq.² He was away and represented by Gen Steph Chamberlin.

Turner left me and returned to the ship while the rest of us called on Eichelberger's Eighth Army Hqrs where we saw Eich. & his C of S Clovis Byers.³ We then drove out to XXIV Corps Hq. The Corps and most of the staff were on amphibious rehearsals but we saw Gen Garvin, C of S, and Talley⁴ and some of our staff.

At 6:00 we went to Kincaid's for dinner. Adm Kaufman, Comdng the Naval District was there. There was much speculation as to the future command setup in the Pacific and whether MacArthur would take over for the eventual attack on Japan. Kincaid thinks he is very sound strategically but overlooks important operational details.

¹ The General's aide-de-camp (*ex inf.* WCB)

² Douglas MacArthur, General of the Armies, and thus responsible for Operation Iceberg

³ Lt Gen Robert L. Eichelberger, Superintendent of West Point, 1940-42, assumed command of the 8th army in 1944, under Gen. MacArthur, commander of Allied & US occupation Forces in Japan, 1946.

⁴ Buckner's chief engineer of the Alaska Defense Command was named Talley. (*ex inf.* WCB)

Saturday March 17: During the morning, we went over to where the XXIV Corps was having a landing rehearsal with the 7th & 96th Divs. A hard rain came up and made it impossible to carry out air support missions.

After lunch, Adm. Hall and Hodge¹ came aboard.

Capt Whitehead (N) air support liaison officer, Rr Adm Pride (his understudy) and Col Shaw arrived from Ulithe. Pride had seen the

suicide plane *with crew of three* hit the carrier. [blank] He said that ships were lighted up in spite of the fact that the plane was picked up on the screen 80 miles away. Another plane dived into an island. It was about 9:00 PM.

At 7:30 PM I went to the ship's movies which were interrupted by an air alert at 8:00 - a real blessing.

¹ Maj Gen John Hodge, commander of the XXIV Corps, comprising the 7th and 96th Divisions

Sunday March 18: Gen Bruce, Comdg 77th Div, came aboard in the morning for an hour's visit.

During the afternoon the rest of my staff and Hq. enlisted force came aboard from the XXIV Corp Hq, where they had been awaiting our arrival.

We saw copies of an affidavit by an escaped prisoner from a sunken Jap boat showing that the Japs crowded prisoners into a ship's hold with the deliberate idea of suffocating them and had killed about half that way when the ship was sunk by aircraft. The conditions described made the black hole of Calcutta seem almost mild by comparison.¹ When the ship was sinking the Jap sentinel fired into and hit ten of the survivors.

¹ An incident during fighting between the British and Sirajuddaula, the Nawab of Bengal, in 1756. It was claimed, controversially, that 146 British prisoners were imprisoned over night in a small cell and that only 23 emerged alive next morning. The expression has passed into English.

Monday March 19: During the morning our staff formed battle positions and we observed another amphibious landing by the XXIV Corps. They were 15 minutes late crossing the line of departure and Adm Turner said he was going to relieve the Gen L.S.T. Div Comdr

responsible for the delay.

Gen Mulcahy (USMC) Comdg my land based aircraft arrived from Honolulu and joined us aboard[.]¹

I told Dumas that he might go to Manila to see his sister-in-law who had been a captive in Jap hands since the outbreak of the war, provided he could fly up tomorrow and return next day. He wants to supply her with funds. She is still at Santo Tomas, where she was confined.

¹ Maj Gen Francis Mulcahy, commander of the 10th Army's Tactical Air Force made up mostly of Marine pilots (Leckie, p.68)

Tuesday March 20: Dumas couldn't get plane transportation to Manila, after all.

The morning was uneventful, except for a visit from Gen Bruce (77th Div)¹ and Rr Adm Kiland who is taking him to his objective. Bruce, as usual, is rarin' to go and is looking well ahead for action. I much prefer a bird dog that you have to whistle in to one that have to urge out. He is of the former variety.

Clovis Byers came aboard just before noon with an invitation to dine with Eichelberger on Thursday, which was accepted.

Turner, Post Adm Hall & I dined with Hodge at Riyal - a delightful dinner. We got back aboard by 9:00 PM via duck, P.T. boat and Admiral's barge.

I gave Hodge a quart of Scotch and a pistol slide with a stainless steel front sight. He let me have the second volume of Lee's Lieutenants by Freeman to read. I started it when I was last with him in Jan.

¹ Maj Gen Andrew Bruce, commander of the 77th Marine Division

Wednesday March 21: Today the 77th Div (Bruce) started for the target. At last our advance guard is headed for the enemy with no

intermediate stops. Bruce is rarin' to go.

From 2 to 5 PM we went to the Titan, Adm Hall's flagship and listened to a critique of the amphibious rehearsals. There was a general feeling of confidence and assurance at the meeting. I saw Arnold (7th Div)¹ and Jim Bradley (96th Div)² at the meeting. After the first hour, the benefit derived from critiques progresses in accordance with the law of diminishing returns.

Don Prior of the combined American radio network wants me to go on the air with him and Adm Turner when we are on the target, just as he did with the latter, Holland Smith and Schmidt at Iwo Jima. I would much prefer to keep quiet but saw no way out of it since Turner accepted.

¹ Maj Gen Archibald V. Arnold, commander the 7th Division

² Maj Gen James Bradley, commander of the 96th Division

Thursday March 22: Had a rough rainy trip to and from Eichelberger's dinner. He had just returned from the Iloilo expedition. The Japs left the city and took to the hills. About 2/3 of the city and all of the water front has been burned. Eich. drove into Iloilo in a jeep. Maj Gen Irvine and an Australian brigadier were also of the party. Byers was away. On the way back the cockswain of the Adm's barge got lost in the rain and Adm. Turner took over and got us back.

Friday March 23: We steamed over toward the Samar coast this morning and took on fuel from an oiler.

Further details came regarding Adm. Mit[s]cher's strike in the Japanese Inland Sea.¹ The fact that he could cripple warships there is a real landmark in the war. It means that the Japs now have no safe anchorage anywhere in which they can restore or hide their fleet. Their

intelligent men can't help realizing this.

¹ Vice Adm Marc A. Mitscher, director Task Force 58 which was involved in most of the major sea and air battles of the Pacific, 1944-5

Saturday March 24: Today was spent having a command post exercise using the actual messages that were sent during the first Iwo Jima assault day. It was an excellent way to shake down the staff and teach them what to expect.

Messages were picked up to the effect that the Japs had located some battleships near Okinawa and that they had made at least one air attack on our mine sweepers. Nothing came directly from our forces, although the sweeping and bombardment were to have begun today.

Sunday March 25: Our LSTs and tractor outfits moved out this morning. Being slower than the transports, they need a head start. They will meet us on the objective.

Monday March 26: Early morning messages indicate that the bombardment, minesweeping and air attack came off on schedules [*sic*]. U.D.T.'s report only 1 moored and 6 floating mines and beach conditions in the Kerama Retto about as expected. Only rifle fire at UDT's and only 1 casualty.

10:00 a.m. we had a demonstration of the use of 5lb T.N.T. charges against Jap underwater swimmers. We dropped one in 60ft of water and killed a good many small fish.

Intercepted local message indicate [*sic*] that the 77th has a good foothold in the Kerama Retto but nothing direct from him.

A message from Adm. Mit[s]cher says that Okinawa is honeycombed with caves, tunnels and emplacements and predicts a very tough

job for us. Tomorrow we start on a great adventure.

Tuesday March 27: At 10:45 a.m. our convoy weighed anchor and moved with an air of dignified confidence on its non-stop trip to close with the enemy.

When we were well started a message came to the effect that a sailor in the Eldorado's crew had just been designated to attend an officer's training school. We signalled to a P.T. boat which came alongside. The sailor slid down a ladder which we lowered, someone[e] threw his bags into the PT boat after him and the little craft took him smiling toward shore.

In the afternoon we briefed all the war correspondents aboard and had some anti-aircraft practice at sleeves towed by planes from our escort carriers.

Just before supper, word came from Bruce that the landing of the 77th Div in the Kerama Retto was progressing well and that he had captured 38 suicide boats hidden in caves.

Wednesday March 28: Finished reading the third volume of Freeman's "Lee's Lieutenants" - Gettysburg to Appotomax. A tragic epitaph to a nobly defended cause.

Thursday March 29: The gun crews of the ships in the convoy practiced following planes from the carriers that simulated straffing attacks. Our ship also launched its paravanes to see if they were in order and that the crew knew how to use them.

Adm Turner now spends all his time and takes his meals on the flag bridge. His staff said that he had never messed with the troop commander's staff until the two weeks that he was with us from Guam

until the convoy left Leyte.

Friday March 30: No. of suicide boats captured in Kerama Retto now reported as over 300.

Had [to] abandon ship drill in P.M.

Had a submarine contact and passed one or more floating mines. During the afternoon a destroyer came alongside and delivered mail via breeches buoy.

Saturday March 31: Ely¹ came aboard from a destroyer in a breeches buoy. He had just left Adm. Blandey's task force² with the 77th Div and had the latest pictures and U.D.T. reports.

Tomorrow is Easter Sunday, my father's birthday and the day of my first battle. I hope that I shall be able to look back upon it with same degree of enthusiasm with which I anticipate it.

Attended Easter services at 8:15 P.M. and turned in early so as to be fresh for tomorrow[']s events.

¹ ? Col. Louis B. Ely, intelligence officer of the 10th Army (Appleman, p. 387)

² Vice Adm William H. Blandy, commander of the Amphibious Support Force

Sunday April 1: Rose at 4:30 and had hot cakes for breakfast by way of getting fortified for a day of fighting.

The weather was good and the golden sunrise was not for Japan. Shortly before six some Jap planes attacked. Seven were shot down. Apparently we shot down an eighth that was ours.

The crescendo of the bombardment, culminating in the rocket discharge was a magnificent spectacle. From start to finish the landing was a superb piece of teamwork which we could watch from the 50-yd

line in the command room on the flag deck.

We landed practically without opposition and gained more ground than we expected to have for three days, including the Yontan [Yomitan] and Katena [Kadena] airfields. Arnold's 7th Div made the farthest gains and got half way across the island. The weather continues good and we have nearly 60,000 troops ashore with negligible casualties.

At about dusk several suicide planes came in. The West Virginia and one other ship were hit. We set up a smoke screen around our ship. - Tonight the sky is constantly lighted by star shells.

The Japs have missed their best opportunity on the ground and in the air. When their counter-attack comes we will be holding strong ground.

Monday April 2: A Jap plane was shot down at dawn by AAA.

The 7th Div got entirely across the island today. Being well ahead of the 1st Mardiv on its left, it could not turn south abreast of the 96th Div which was attacking in that direction against gradually stiffening resistance. Some opposition was met by the left of the III Phibcorps. Weather excellent.

I have decided to order up the 27th Div from Ulithe to land on the east shore about Apr 10. Hodge came aboard during the afternoon.

Adm Spruance is trying to hurry us in the capture of Ie Jima. This would gain no time in completing the field and would use up the army reserve before the main fight starts.

Main Jap forces are apparently in the south and heavy fighting should start within two days.

At dusk 12 suicide planes [came in. 2 shot down by fighters & by AAA. and one damaged an ?LST - *scored through*] <attacked Kerama shipping. They struck and damaged 4 transports.> Ships in our vicinity put up a smoke screen.

A slightly injured Jap plane landed today by mistake on a field that we had captured. He was shot when he started to run and the plane was captured.

Tuesday April 3: Yesterday 11 women armed & in Jap uniforms along with some soldiers tried to attack a 96th Div FA. position & were killed.

Disapproved Hodge's request to have 77th Div. land and cover his rear. (He probably wants to assure himself that it will remain in his corps)

All units progressed satisfactorily. The 7th Div got turned south and the 1st Mardiv reached the east coast. Resistance still light.

The 27th Div was sent for to land on the east coast about Apr 10. It is at Uliihe.

The 2d. Mardiv ordered to land Apr 5 on beaches north of those now used by III Phibcorps. Geiger came aboard after lunch in fine spirits.

At sundown our fighters reported that 25 Jap planes started toward our ships but after 13 had been shot down, the rest left.

Wednesday April 4: Air raids reported so far have come at dawn or dusk, many by suicide planes. Numbers as follows:-

Apr 1	-	15	attacked,	11	shot down
Apr 2	-	30	"	12	" "
Apr 3	-	71	"	26	" "

Wind today shifting to north and slightly slowing up unloading. Work progressing on air fields.

Hodge, Geiger and Adm Rufsnyder came aboard.

I was unable to go ashore as I had planned due to two conferences on future operations.

Troops are beginning to envelop enemy positions to the south.

Bradley well ahead of Arnold. The latter in very rough ground. The Marines cleaned up everything to the north and started up the isthmus practically unopposed. Some evidence of looting and vandalism. I issued further instructions to stop this.

Handelman of the Int[ernational]. News Service wanted a statement from me to issue on "VE" day. [I] told him I knew nothing of VE day and wouldn't tell anybody if I did. Too many people have already talked too much on that subject.

Thursday April 5: Cold north wind, rain and some swell. Very little unloading as the result. No planes attacked this group.

Had conference with Geiger and Adm. Rufsnyder regarding Phase 2. Also conferred with my own staff regarding Phase 3 and what is to follow.

Sherrod, who was in Alaska as a correspondent came to see me. He is on his way to N.Y.

The 3d Mardiv continued to advance northward against negligible resistance.

A few Okinawans had been given guns. They don't know either how to fight or how to surrender. They shoot a few rounds and go into caves but won't come out and have to be killed. The 7th & 96th Divs moved slowly against increasing resistance.

The civil population seems docile. Two men who killed their wives because the Japs told them they would be raped to death became very hostile to the Japs when they surrendered themselves and found this not to be true. One attacked a Jap prisoner.

Am preparing to land a reconnaissance group on Ie Jima. The eastern islands are being reconnoitered today by the Marine Recon. Bn.

Friday April 6: The Japanes[e] cabinet fell today.

The northern flank continued to advance without opposition and the southern force to [?en]velop a strong Jap position.

During the morning Adm Spruance came aboard and with Adm Turner and myself conferred on the next phase of the campaign. We all were in agreement.

Adm Spruance's flagship had recently been hit by a suicide plane whose bombs went completely through the ship, broke a propeller shaft and exploded on the other side of the vessel. He is now on the New Mexico.

From 3:30 PM on we were under constant air attack largely by suicide planes. Six or seven ships were hit; mostly destroyers in our picket screen. Also an ammunition ship which was abandoned.

Very few planes got to the transport area. I saw only four hit the water near our ship. The carrier planes and anti-aircraft report that they shot down [left blank]

An ammunition dump blew up on Katana air field and a gasoline barge burned on shore - possibly from falling anti-aircraft shells that shot down a friendly plane and caused 41 casualties in shore parties.

Saturday April 7: Went ashore in barges "Annabelle the Whore" and "Bertha the Vicious Virgin"

Yesterday's reports indicate that between 3:30 PM and dark our shipping was attacked by 182 planes of which 116 were either shot down by our planes and AA or dived at or into ships. There were 22 separate groups attacking. 22 got far enough for suicide dives and 14 ships were hit by 18 planes. Most hits were on destroyers. Two ammunition ships were hit and blew up at Kerama Retto.

This morning at 7:30 I made (reluctantly) a 2-minute Army Day

talk over the radio.

News came of Gen MacArthur's being put in command of all Army troops in the Pacific. Adm Nimitz will retain naval command.

From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 I was ashore visiting the CPs of the XXIV Corps, the 7th Div and the 9th Div. From a hill watched [?]th Div. Bn attack a hill. Had lunch at Arnold's CP. Saw Bradley in his CP at the Agricultural School. Very luxuriously furnished.

Visited Katena Airfield - It is ready for planes except for gas and ground crews which should arrive in a day or so. Saw some suicide rocket planes with 2000lb warheads. 4 marine fighter squadrons occupied the Yontan field today. There was little enemy air activity today.

Admiral Spruance's carrier planes sank BB Yamato, 1 cruiser & 3 destroyers and damaged other destroyers near Kyushu today.

Sunday April 8: Very little air attack today. Adm Mitscher[']s carriers finished off a light cruiser and two or more destroyers of the fleet yesterday.

Went ashore and spent day visiting III Phibcorps, 1st <Marine> Div and 6th Mardiv. Had lunch with Gen Del Valle' who had fresh pork for which I took him to task.

6th Mardiv advancing rapidly into Motobu Peninsula killing about 50 Japs a day. Slight resistance against disorganized gro[ups], some from navy.

Some sniper fire against 1st Mardiv. Hq at night.

Okinawa civilians, a pathetic lot, coming out of holes carrying children, old people, and few belongings. They seem docile and often smile and wave as we pass. They seem to dislike the Japs. Many of their villages are destroyed but they accept it stoically. Some say they are glad we are here and give us information about the Japs.

The XXIV Corps advance about 1000 yds against increasing resistance. I am going to land the 27th Div. to give impetus to its attack and use the 77th to take Ie Jima after the 27th lands. Part of the 27th, meanwhile, I shall use to secure the eastern islands.

¹ Maj Gen Pedro A. Del Valle, commander of the 1st Marine Division 'which had been attached to the XXIV Army Corps, assumed responsibility for the former 27th Division zone of action... on May 1.' (Appleman, p.267)

Monday April 9: Gen. Griner¹ came aboard after breakfast and conferred regarding his landing. He was attached to the XXIV Corps and landed on western beaches this afternoon except 1 reinforced regiment that is to capture the eastern islands tomorrow.

I spent the afternoon visiting the wounded in the hospital ships: Comfort and Solace: sailors badly burned by suicide planes.

Our first mail arrived but none from home. Heavy resistance with increasing Arty, mortar and rocket bomb fire encountered on the southern front. Our advance slow.

¹ Maj Gen George Griner, commander of the Army's 27th Infantry Division

Tuesday 10 April: Spent the day ashore. The enemy in front of the XXIV Corps is superbly fortified and probably outnumbers our 2 attacking Divs. Our 96th is receiving a considerable number of casualties.

The 27th Div landed today but rains have bogged it down and held up Arty. ammunition which is now short on our southern front. I told Hodge that a heavy attack would not be profitable until the 27th reached his front line at which time he should make it. I also told of my plan to turn over the 77th to him after it took Ie Jima about Apr 16. I am trying to arrange with Adm. Turner to make a demonstration against the southern part of the island at the time of Hodge's attack so as to contain or divert reserves of the enemy.

Went to 96th Div CP and took Bradley up to Col. Dill's Regt¹ where an O.P. overlooked the enemy position but it was too rainy and foggy to see anything. Coming back the roads were so bad we had to substitute a weasel for our Jeep. Hubbard was with me.

More mail came today with a letter from Adele mailed Mch. 24.

Sent a message to Gen MacArthur by way of greeting our new over-all commander.

¹ Col M.L. Dill, commander of the 382nd Infantry, 96th Division (see Appleman, pp.344-7)

Wednesday April 11: Received a gracious reply to my message to Gen MacArthur.

A Bn of the 27th Div took the eastern islands off Nagakasuko¹ Wan yesterday. They were lightly held. Only 150 Japs killed. One of our destroyers was hit 6 times by a 75 mm gun during the landing.

Weather again prevented unloading on western beaches today. Slight resistance found in northern part of Motobu Peninsula but 6th Mardiv continues its advance.

The XXIV Corps continues to consolidate preparatory to an attack after the 27th Div gets on the line.

Bruce came aboard to arrange details of his attack on Ie Jima. As usual, he is rarin' to try a landing behind the Jap main position in southern Okinawa.

Adm Sherman came aboard representing Adm Nimitz to confer regarding airfield development here, the rehabilitation of divisions here and Phase III of this operation.² He agreed with our recommendation on the last 2 items. We must await further reconnaissance before we are ready to make final airfield recommendations.

9:00 - 9:15 PM, watched plotting of a bogie's course. The vectoring

of our angel until the latter reported visual contact and then the report: "One bogy splashed."

¹ Tsuken-jima; and *recte* Nakagusuku Bay

² Rear Adm Forrest P. Sherman, Deputy Chief of Staff to Adm Nimitz, 1943-45

Thursday 12 April: Several plane attacks about 4:30 AM. Flak fell on our deck wounding 1 man. 7 planes shot down near us.

Spent entire day on board the Eldorado.

Conferred with Adm Cobb in the morning regarding his future duties and with Hodge in afternoon regarding his coordinated attack to be made in conjunction with a demonstration. Arty. ammunition shortage due to bad unloading weather and muddy roads make it desirable to have him attack after Ie Jima is captured.

We were under constant air attack from about 1:45 PM until dark, mostly by suicide planes. Some battleships <<(2)>> and <<(7)>> radar pickets were hit. Apparently [*illegible number scored through*] <one> sinking [*s -scored through*]. I saw only one get to the transport area and it splashed. Another fell in flames over the island opposite our anchorage from so high a point that we couldn't see it start down. Preliminary reports indicate over 100 planes shot down (Final score: 128)

Some small counter-attacks against 6th Mardiv in Motobu Penn. No appreciable gains in the south. Japs bombed Yontan and shelled Katena fields without serious injury.

40 tons of ammunition blew up in the XXIV Corps sector as the result of enemy shelling.

Friday 13 April: Press asked me to "make a statement" regarding the President's death which I did, chiefly to get rid of them.

Spent most of the day ashore visiting the III Phibcorps and 6th

Mardiv. The latter has reached the extreme north of the Motobu Penn. but must still reduce a center of resistance in the center estimated variously as from 1000 to 2500 Japs.

Civilians are pouring in by the thousand and being taken over by the civil government. Had a talk with Crist¹ who has started them to harvesting the ripe barley at my suggestion. The women seem to be doing all the work. It is almost incredible to see what burdens they carry on their heads. In addition most of them have babies strapped on their backs.

Visited Mulcahy and Dillon at the Yontan airfield. The latter is on crutches from a sprained knee damaged by his jumping into a fox hole when a 20 mm shell went through his tent.

Cargo is going ashore rapidly again and the roads have dried out.

No appreciable progress in the south.

Post woke me up at about midnight with news that the war in Europe was over. This misinformation resulted from a garbled message to prepare speeches to be broadcast "*when*" VE day came. The "*when*" was garbled.

About a dozen planes shot down today.

¹ Brig Gen William E. Crist, 10th Army Deputy Commander for the Military Government of Okinawa

Saturday April 14: Spent day ashore. Visited new CP site, went to see Iscom¹ and Talley to speed up ammunition unloading. Saw Hodge and Griner at XXIV Corps Hq. Also went to 7th and 96th Div CPs. Bradley was sick in bed, apparently with nervous indigestion from his long strain. Easley² though[t] that all he needed was a rest.

6th Mardiv reached north end of island with patrols. XXIV Corps still preparing for attack. 27th Div partly in line on the right.

Bradley reported killing about 600 out of 900, counter-attacking him

two days ago. No counter-attacks against Arnold.

Only 6 or 8 planes shot down today. 1 picket boat hit by suicider.

¹ Island Command, under the 10th Army, was to act as its administrative and logistic agency.

² Brig Gen Claudius M. Easley, assistant commander Army 96th Div., killed the day following Buckner's death

Sunday 15 April: Spent the day ashore visiting the III Phibcorps. The 6th Mardiv and a civil affairs unit. Saw too much wanton destruction by Marines and told Sheppard¹ and Geiger so.

Went to front-line O.P. in 6th Mardiv with Sheppard and looked at every position in center of Motobu Penn. Remnants of Jap forces seem to be digging in on a hill there. 6 Bns. will attack tomorrow.

Saw two Marines holding a goat, a third trying ineffectually to milk her and a small kid nearby squalling for its lost dinner.

Saw my first two snakes. Birds seem few in number and species. Have seen 2 small Japanese quail, 2 white herons, half a dozen crows, some swallows, 3 doves, a few English <(?)> sparrows and a dozen slate-colored birds with black wings and tails about the size of shrikes. Also a beautiful small deep blue kingfisher.²

Air raid against Yontan field at sunset and at dark. Not much damage done by Jap raid but a good many casualties and damaged planes by our own AA fire. The ships fire low and toward shore. They also burned two gasoline dumps.

A few hostile planes were shot down.

¹ Maj Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, commander of the 6th Marine Division, future commandant of the US Marine Corps

² This sentence appears to be a later addition.

Monday April 16: Spent day visiting CPs of XXIV, 27th Div and 96th Div. Also went to 2 forward OPs in 96th area to look over enemy position.

Saw Bradley who appears in better health and spirits than he was two days ago.

The general situation on the N and S fronts remains unchanged. Attacks being prepared.¹

The 77th Div was landed on Ie Jima at about 8:00 AM. after having put Arty ashore on Minna Jima. Very little opposition on beaches. Airfield taken and garrison retired to the hill at east end of island. Numbers estimated from 200 to 1000. Attack will continue against them tomorrow. Only 2 RCTs of 77th Div were landed

Our new CP ashore is now partly occupied and will be ready in a couple of days.

I told Griner to seal up all tombs in his area.

T.F. 58 reported shooting down 166 planes.

¹ This sentence appears to be a later addition.

Tuesday April 17: Very little change in general situation. TF 58 reported "another good day" after saying they were under attack. Saw a picket boat with a suicide plane stuck into its bridge - Captain and 30 of crew killed.

Visited 1st Mardiv and spent rest of day in civil government camps. Lt Comdr Fraser (Mass[achusetts] lawyer) has Shimubaru camp well organized and doing useful work.

Watched civilians also on Penn[insula]. between Chinen and Nagasuko [sic] Wan where about 40,000 of them are left practically to their own devices.

Wednesday April 18: Adm. Turner came aboard. Says his carrier flyers are carrying a heavy load in defending themselves and helping us and are showing fatigue.

Moved my CP ashore after lunch. Got settled and visited XXIV Corps C.P. [?also visited 7th and 98th Divs - *scored through and semi-legible*]

All set for tomorrow's attack[.]

Took Hubbard forward to 7th Div CP to spend night so as to watch jump off tomorrow from forward OP in that Div.

One of our 155mm gun batteries fired over our tent all night but after a couple of hours I got used to it and it ceased to keep me awake.

Thursday 19 April: Got up at 4:35 and went to forward O.P. with Arnold. Arty preparation and later use was beautiful. Very little Jap counter fire. Watched flame thrower tanks which seem very effective.

Very little resistance to start with. Men did not advance quite fast enough at first.

At about 9:50 left Arnold and went via 96th Div CP to OP of Col Dillin 96th zone. Resistance much stiffer there. Returned via 27th Div CP to my own.

Result of day's operations: a gain of about <8 [hundred] to> 1200 yds on right and left leaving a salient in the heavily fortified escarpment area in the center. Expect to work on flanks of Jap salient tomorrow. Progress <not quite> satisfactory.

Heavy thundershowers during afternoon.

Visited Hodge before supper and told him to speed up advance. 7th Div too cautious.

Friday April 20: Visited 27th Div in the morning. Saw Col. Stebbins of 105th. He was slow in getting his attack off this morning - Jap Arty concentration and shot out bridges given as reason: Too many reasons and not enough advance. Told him so. Also saw Col. Kelly¹ of 165th Inf

and urged him toward a faster pace: To go where the going is good and pinch out pockets of resistance.

The Katena air field was strafed [*sic*] and bombed about 8:30 or nine in the evening. One plane was injured by falling AA shells. A bomb hit one shelter and killed 8 men and wounded 17.

Later in the night, about 4:30 AM I think, seven or eight shells, about 155 mm size fell not far from our CP.

¹ Col Gerard W. Kelly, commander of the 165th Infantry, 27th Infantry Division

Saturday April 21: Visited Bn OP in [*blank*] Inf Regt. of Col. Halloran.¹ His right Bn Comdr thinks 27th Div on his right is not helping him as much as contemplated. I then went to 27th Div CP and found that the left Bn of that Div had been driven back, inexcusably I think, by a counter attack. There was also some mystery about loss of tanks that I could not fully get explained. The right of the 27th had progressed fairly well.

In the afternoon I went out to the Eldorado to see Turner and discussed the general situation and the coming of Adm Nimitz tomorrow.

Communications with the 77th Div on Ie Jima have not been good but today Bruce sent a staff officer over to say that all organized resistance was over and that he had killed over 1900 Japs. Probably 500 more to kill. His total killed & wounded: over 800 [*sic*].

After dark a number of Jap planes come in off and on until midnight with lots of anti-aircraft firing and some bombing and strafing.

¹ Col Michael E. Halloran, commander of the 381st Infantry, 96th Infantry Division

Sunday April 22: Hodge called up early and confirmed my observations regarding the left of the 27th Div and their poor use of tanks. He had sent B[.]G. Bradford¹ to co-ordinate between the 96th and 27th Divs.

Adm Nimitz, Gen. Vandegrift, Adm. Spruance Adm Sherman & others arrived by air at noon. I took them sight seeing. Adm. Nimitz discussed Phase 3, the rehabilitation of units here. The transfer of Okinawans from the Marianas back here, the future of the island and succeeding operations against Japan. Phase 3 may be abandoned if sufficient fields can be found here to fulfil our support requirements. Arranged for further trips tomorrow to the northward. Adm Nimitz presented me with a bottle [sic] of liquor which I told him I would open when all organized resistance here had ended.

During the night our land based planes here shot down 32 attacking "Vals," losing only 1 plane and no pilots. Most of the Vals were shot down just before dark.

¹ Brig Gen William B Bradford, commander of the 96th Division

Monday April 23: Spent the day taking Adm. Nimitz to the north to see air field sites and visit III Phibcorps and 1st Mardiv. Had lunch with Geiger.

Told Adm. Nimitz that Okinawa should be retained by us as a means of access to the China sea, a flanking position against north and south movements along the China coast, a check against further aggression by Japan and as an outpost to prevent Russia from expansion into the Pacific from Chinese ports that she might acquire at the end of the war by occupying them under the pretext of helping us against Japan. I made the suggestion with the proviso that we should control this island as a "protectorate," "mandate" or some other name that would have the Okinawans as aliens not permitted to enter our country as citizens

and add to our already complex race problems.

Tuesday April 24: Some progress on southern front - Hill 178 taken and a foothold gained on the escarpment. Japs apparently retiring to another strong position. Heavy Jap artillery fire.

Very little air attack last night and anti-aircraft rain today.

Inspected unloading at beaches. Labor crews at the dumps appear to be the bottle neck.

Adm. Nimitz left this morning apparently well pleased.

Richardson published a "newsmap" on Okinawa without mentioning anything but major *Army* units and their commanders. Wrote him an official letter urging him to give due credit to my *marines*. Richardson is always a menace to good relations between the services in the Pacific. Adm. Nimitz knows it.

Wednesday April 25: Flew to Ie Shima in a cubplane and saw Bruce. Island about cleaned up and 77th Div will be completely loaded by Apr 27 to move to Okinawa and be attached to the XXIV Corps. Unfortunately, Bruce blew up all tombs on the island as a precaution against their use by snipers, a most unnecessary piece of vandalism committed with pious intentions.

Slight progress on southern front and preparation for another coordinated attack tomorrow. Visited XXIVth Corps, 96th Div and 27th Div CPs in the afternoon.

After supper, assembled my staff and started them to work on my tentative plans to be put into effect when and if Phase 3c¹ is called off. Adm Nimitz has recommended against 3c as unnecessary since adequate air field sites are available here without it.

¹ The general wished to conduct a second landing, Operation Iceberg Phase 3c, at the Minatogawa inlet area. The plan was rejected when it became clear that his G-4 (Logistics) section could not furnish ammunition.

Thursday April 26: Adm Spruance and Adm Halsey came to my CP. just after lunch and went off on a sight-seeing expedition.

The rest of the afternoon I spent with Arnold on Hill 178 which gave me a beautiful panoramic view of most of the battle front. Our troops made considerable advances and broke the enemy's hold on one end of the escarpment.

From 3:45 to 4:00 this morning about 8 155 [mm.] shells fell near our CP but did no damage.

Friday April 27: At a staff meeting in the morning I announced my decision regarding the use of the III Phibcorps immediately after receipt of word that Phase 3c had been called off. My decision was at variance with my staff's recommendations.

Adm. Halsey left in the afternoon.

Still very little progress in the center of the line but some gain on both flanks. Part of the 77th Div has arrived behind the 96th.

I visited Iscom and the 1st Mardiv.

Two snipers with telescopic sights killed last night on the Yontan air field.

Infiltrators also caught in rear of 7th Div with orders to look for CP's and kill senior commanders. A prisoner said that his CO drew lots and the half who "won" were privileged to *have* to do this.

Saturday 28 April: Last night began with a romantically beautiful moonrise but there the romance ended. Jap hecklers were around in the air all night. At midnight they buzzed over our C.P. at very low

altitude and bombed the airfield. Later at about 3:00 they did it again. AAA was spectacular but inaccurate. Search-light work was poor. Night fighters got 2 Jap planes.

Looked over road net to the north and dropped in on III Phibcorps & 6th Mardiv C.P.

4:00 PM - Conferred DSM cluster at a small ceremony to Hodge for his Leyte [Philippines] campaign prowess[.]

After moonrise heavy air attack began again. Post and I moved our bunker into the dugout. During the afternoon and night the shore-based fighters got 35 planes and the shore 2 ship AAA an equal number (counting 22 suicide planes). The local carrier-based planes also got 35. Yesterday 1 ammunition ship was sunk and another one, a destroyer hit.

A hospital ship is also reported as struck.

Sunday April 29: During the morning I went via XXIV Corps Hq to the 27th Div to assure Griner that his being taken out of the line and moved north as the island garrison was no indication that I was not completely satisfied with the Div's performance. He was obviously relieved.

I spent the afternoon visiting the wounded in the 69th Fld. Hospl. Saw a man's brains through a hole in his temple. The doctor said he had an even chance of recovery.

Monday April 30: More air raids after moonrise last night. The Yontan airfield was shelled from near Naha. One plane destroyed and several badly damaged.

In the morning went aboard the Eldorado to see Adm Turner. Had lunch there. Adm Oldendorf was there and brought a letter from Adm Nimitz saying the 24 Okinawa pine trees I had sent him at Guam had

arrived in good condition.

Bruce took over from the 96th Div. A Regt of the 1st Mardiv moved into the line relieving the 27th Div. Small counter attack in the center from 1 Co to 1 Bn.

At 4:00 PM attended at XXIV Corps Hq the wedding of the Jap captured Capt and the Okinawa girl. Chaplain read civil service. Interpreted. Lost ring made from quarter. Bride delayed ceremony to fix her obi. MP present with shotgun. 1st Sgt said "Bring 'um in" and "Take 'um home." Groom made speech. Photographers present. (I explained to press people the propaganda purpose of the ceremony.) Accordion and torri¹ added color.

¹ ? final entertainment act at a Japanese wedding or other ceremony - *tori*

Tuesday May 1: Accompanied Bruce to two front line Bn OPs. Got splendid view of fighting on the front of the 77th Div.

Had 2-hour press conference at 3:00 PM. Some of the correspondents sought to make a scandal out of the "Hollywood wedding" yesterday of the Japs. I explained the purpose to get information out of them and let Japs know they would be well treated if they surrendered. Most of them accepted it but a few will want to raise controversial bad feeling for sensational purposes.

Wednesday May 2:¹ After breakfast visited Arnold in Hospl. Had his appendix out last night. Doing well. I wrote Marg, his wife.

Adm Oldendorf & Adm D[?eep] arrived at 10:00 a.m. I met them at the dock; had them to lunch, showed them the Jap buzz bomb and sent them off to see Hodge & Bradley about naval gunfire support.

I then visited the 1st Mardiv CP. They had great assurance and

expected to make large gains at once.

¹ This entry was written on the lower half of the page, i.e., evidence that the diary was not always compiled on the same day.

Thursday May 3: (See opposite page) (Contd)¹

May 3 It was apparent to me that the 77th Div and the 1st Mardiv entered the line expecting to show their superiority over their predecessors by a rapid breakthrough of the enemy[']s position. They were promptly stopped and learned some valuable lessons today. From now on they will be more valuable as all-around fighters.

Spent the morning at the 31st. Fld Hospl (Rogon Comdg.) and visited the 77th and 1st Mardiv CPs in the afternoon. Del Valle was feeling a little off his feed with a cold. (contd next page)

¹ The text for May 3 is written on the lower half of the page for May 2. The rest of the page for May 3 is blank.

Friday May 4: Last night heavy air attacks struck Yontan field and the fleet. 8 men were killed in a Hospl. Our CP and the field were shelled again.

In the south the Japs tried to envelop both our flanks in barges and penetrate the center at the same time during the night that the air attack came <<(about midnight)>> . Each attacking force was a Bn. Naval gunfire sank the eastern Bn. The center was stopped but the western group got ashore opposite the 1st Mardiv. About 200 in one group were killed but part of another group got inland with about 80 Jap infiltrators that are still at large.

After breakfast I had a staff meeting and gave out decisions regarding the capture of neighboring islands for radar stations to control planes. Adm Turner is impatient about this, so the 2d Mardiv will have to be used if speed is important.

Spent the day at Ie Shima. Thomas (Iscom) recovering from pneumonia. Interviewed his staff to see how I could help their project. They predict readiness of field for fighter group May 12. Adm Spruance sent staff officers to find out date.

Our land-based planes shot down 45 Jap planes today. I sent congratulatory messages to Mulcahy - my third.

Saturday May 5: Met Adm Spruance and Adm Hill¹ at dock and took them to XXIV Corps CP. After reviewing situation, sent them on a tour of the Div CPs and Shimubaru. They left via my CP in the afternoon.

After lunch conferred with G-3 section and gave decisions upon which to issue Army order for attacking with both corps.

Doughtery came ashore from Adm Turner to discuss securing radar picket islands. Turner seems less in a rush now that I have pointed out the necessity for bringing up the 2d Mardiv if speed is essential.

Later and more complete information including a captured enemy order indicates that the counter attack was by the entire 24th Jap Div. It continued sporadically today in our center. Over 3000 Japs were killed <yesterday> last night and today.

¹ Adm Harry W. Hill replaced Admiral Turner on May 17 'as Commander Task Force 51... to control the air defenses of Okinawa and the naval forces in the area.' (Appleman, p.359)

Sunday May 6: More air attacks last night but no great damage.

Called at CPs of XXIV Corps, 1st Mardiv, 77th Div and 7th Div. Also watched fighting from 1st Mardiv O.P. Saw Arnold in Hospl. Not much gain today but resistance seems slightly weaker.

Conferred with Geiger regarding details of his going into the line as a corps.

Turner has new idea on radio picket islands - the third change in three days.

Adm Spruance wants 1st priority given to getting fighters to operate from here. This I have ordered.

During the night the cases of about 8 <of our> 5-in[ch] naval star shells fell in our CP. One near the corner of Roney's tent went 7 feet into the ground. We were not bothered by enemy shells.

Monday May 7: Conferred with Adms Turner and Hill (the latter will soon succeed Turner) on the Eldorado regarding radar islands. Decided to take small ones with local troops, to get a reinforced Regt of the 2d Mardiv, now on Saipan, to take those with slightly larger garrisons and to take Kume with local troops 30 days after resistance here was over.

Later a message from Cincpoa arrived for 3d [Mardiv] July 15. 2d Mardiv was recommended for this and a RCT of the 3d Mardiv to substitute for the 2d in taking radar islands. (This latter was disapproved. 3d Mardiv held for another operation.)

Tuesday May 8: Official word came of Germany's complete surrender. At noon every gun of our land and ship support batteries fired one round at the enemy. We then tuned into the Jap radio frequency and announced in Japanese that the volley was in celebration of the victory. Tomorrow we are dropping an extra of our Jap newspaper with elaboration of this news.

Heavy rain bogged down our tanks and slowed our advance.

Visited III Phibcorps CP but got stuck in the mud trying to visit the 6th Mardiv.

Wednesday May 9: Spent day driving in jeep to extreme north end of

island. Saw plane picked up by station 180 miles away and followed to 134 mi[les] when I left.

Heavy rains bogged down tanks and prevented substantial gains.

Thursday May 10: V. Adm. Wilkinson came ashore for a visit with some of his staff. V. Adm. McMorris arrived by air and went out to see Adms. Spruance & Turner.

Hodge came to my CP. regarding slow progress. Thought army attack tomorrow should be postponed until more ground was gained. I told him to gain the ground today. I visited Geiger and told him the same.

At 3:00 PM I held a press conference regarding tomorrow's attack. Told them not to expect anything spectacular but expressed confidence in a steady and successful advance. No heckling today. My great display of patience with hecklers at the last meeting had a good effect.

Friday May 11: Attack started at 7:00 AM. Progress all along the line. Visited both corps C.P's and put a little pressure on corps Comdrs. Pocket on right of 77th Div cleared out. Has held us [for - *scored through*] up some time.

Adm McMorris came ashore and discussed future plans. Nothing definite yet since Joint Chiefs of Staff have handed down no decision. With MacArthur in command of troops Krueger's army will have the edge on us in important assignments. '

Considerable Jap air activity today principally against carriers and picket boats. Over 150 Jap planes reported shot down.

Yesterday [*blank*] encountered a Jap fighter at 38,000 ft. His guns froze but he brought down the plane by ramming its tail three times with his propellor and cutting it off.

¹ Gen Walter Krueger, sent to the S.W. Pacific to take charge of the newly formed 6th Army in 1943, commander of southern Japan until 1946.

Saturday May 12: Adm McMorris left early in the morning for Guam and I spent the day visiting both corps CP, all four Div CP's and three forward OP's giving me a view of the entire front. Progress being made on both flanks but not much in the middle. This was expected. Right of 6th Mardiv reached edge of northern part of Naha and left of 96th Div got started well up the N.W. slope of the "conical hill."

Sunday May 13: After breakfast went to III Phibcorps and 96th Div CPs and then joined Col May in 383d Inf OP overlooking attack on "Conical Hill." His handling of the Regt. was a beautiful piece of troop leading. I could watch the Bn & Co movements easily from the OP and even see Japs, effect of fire, etc. I was there over four hours. May should be promoted to B.G.¹

¹ Col E.T. May, commander of the 383rd Infantry, 96th Infantry Division

Monday May 14: Went to forward OP in 6th Mardiv with Sheppard. Two adjoining Regts each apparently waiting for the other to move forward. Told Sheppard to keep them going. Ret[urne]d. via III Phibcorps.

After lunch had G-3 conference and gave our decisions on Iceberg 3-E.

Dougherty came in with message of impatience from Adm Turner Re. [about] unloading. I conferred with G-4 and later had Wallace in. He felt somewhat harrassed and I don't blame him since priorities are constantly changing and requirements mounting without his being given more means of speeding things up.

On our left, Col May advanced his Regt along the coastal flat 2400 yds and took the Yonabaru air strip. The Japs still hold the far side of "Conical Hill."

Tuesday May 15: Visited both Corps CPs in the morning. Very little gains during the day due to rain which impeded tanks and a Bn counter-attack against the 6th Mardiv.

Had conference with G-3 section and approved plan for Phase 3e.

Wednesday May 16: Considerable air bombing this morning at about 3:00 a.m. Yontan & Purple Beach areas struck by bombs. A few killed & 1 plane burned.

Adm Spruance came ashore. Also 2d Mardiv. staff and 3e Iscom & staff arrived to discuss plans.

Adm Hill came ashore. He takes over from Turner tomorrow but the Tenth Army will be directly under Adm Spruance.

Had a G-4 conference regarding an army service area. Deferred decision pending further information from Iscom.

Visited XXIV Corps CP.

During the bombing this morning a 3-in shell fragment from an AA shell went through my tent near the foot of my bed.

Jap guerillas [*sic*] started a terroristic campaign in the north. Okinawan local headmen beheaded and about 50 women and children murdered by them. This calls for more aggressive patrolling by the 27th Div.

Thursday May 17: Adm. Turner turned over today to Adm. Hill & I now report directly to Adm Spruance. Hill is in charge of the combined air forces ship and shore based, if I interpret the obscure directive properly. I also control all unloading.

Turner, who has just been nominated as a full admiral (4-star) came ashore and I took him on a tour of the island. He said he had recommended to Adm. Nimitz that I be given command of the troops

making the initial landing in Japan proper.

Friday May 18: Turned down my staff's recommendation to establish an army service area by using service troops now assigned to Iscom. Too complicated and productive of disputes.

Visited III Phibcorps where I also saw Hodge and then went to all four front-line Div. CP.s. Also went to a 1st Mardiv. OP. Not much progress today but some movement almost everywhere and a good many Japs killed. A great deal of hand-to-hand fighting.

After dark Yontan airfield was bombed by 3 planes with incendiaries, destroying 1 plane, injuring 16 others and setting off a napalm mixing point with a tremendously spectacular explosion. There was no AA firing due to the restrictions of a control green alert, in spite of AA requests for permission to fire. Will investigate.

(The explosion subsequently turned out to be a naval bomber with 2½ tons of bombs. Only two men wounded. Investigation showed green control due to returning day cap planes. The night cap splashed the Jap who set off the explosion)

Saturday May 19: No material change in situation.

Visited new CP & gave instructions regarding new mess Bldg.

Went to see Mulcahy regarding air control. Later saw Iscom.

Sunday May 20: At noon made a broadcast dedicating the new "Radio Okinawa" station. Knowing that the enemy would listen and translate what I said, a good deal of it was directed at them in a round-about way.

Visited 6th & 1st Mardiv and 96th Div CP.s. An air of optimism exists in the front-line Divs. who seem to feel a slight weakening in the

Japs before them, in spite of the fact that the most savage of hand-to-hand fighting is going on all along the line. Some progress made today, most of it by the 1st Mardiv.

Maj. Gen. Casey Engrs, from Gen MacArthur's command came up to explore air base possibilities to support future operations against Japan by his forces.

He brought an oral message to me from Gen MacArthur which, if quoted correctly by him is anything but complimentary. In effect, he said "Keep your chin up and don't be discouraged even though it may seem hard, because if you keep on pushing you will be surprised to find that the enemy forces will suddenly break and it will be all over" - a somewhat belittling message if correctly delivered, which I doubt.

Monday May 21: Last night about 9:30 a well prepared Bn. counter-attack against the 6th Mardiv was driven back. About 300 Japs killed & a barge sunk.

Visited both Corps and all four Div CPs and went to forward OPs of all but the 1st Mardiv. Got a good view of the left from "Conical Hill". Our front line troops are showing a gradually increasing feeling of optimism, particularly in the 96th Div. Jap resistance on our left appears to be less determined but they still seem strong opposite our right. The 6th Mardiv is less optimistic and its program a trifle slower than I had hoped. It now looks as though an envelopment of the enemy's left will bring fruitful results.

A captured Jap document shows concern over our methods of reducing their defenses.

Tuesday May 22: I wasted today getting caught up on paperwork. It rained most of the day and made tank operations impossible.

Nevertheless, the 6th Mardiv made substantial gains on the right and one Regt. of the 7th Div established a left flank guard in the foothills southeast of Yonabaru against light resistance and very little artillery fire. This paves the way for an envelopment of the Shuri position from the east.

Had Gen Casey and some of his group in for old fashioned cocktails before supper. We used Okinawan raspberries for cherries & Adm Halsey's liquor.

Turned down a C-I-C-2 recommendation to offer a truce to the Japs while we took civilians into our lines. - Let the Japs feed themselves as long as possible. They would let us have the useless ones to feed while they kept all capable of work for strengthening their defenses.

Wednesday May 23: Saw a demonstration, in the morning, of the new recoilers weapons. They look good due to lightness. Directed that they be given to 77th Div for trial against Japs.

Last night at 4:00 AM an attack of about 250 Japs against the 96th Div was exterminated. It was apparently part of a Bn attack.

Adms. Wright and Connolly came after lunch to discuss future operations.

Squeaky Anderson¹ also called during the afternoon and we had a good Alaskan discussion. Steady rain all afternoon - Bad on tank action.

Small counter-attacks took place pretty much all across the front - possibly in response to an order for a general counter-attack that didn't reach units in time. The 7th Div got past Yonabaru and is turning west.

Heavy rain has stopped our tanks and is impeding supply just at a time when rapid progress by the 7th Div is most desirable.

¹ ? Lt Col Walter F. Anderson, commander of the 193rd Tank Battalion, 27th Infantry Division

Thursday May 24: 7th Div made about 1000 yds in enveloping movement. I visited 7th & 6th Marine Divs.

Clear weather and bright moonlight brought heavy air attacks on all 3 fields. At about 9:30 P.M., five twin-engined bombers, each with 14 men armed with incendiary grenades tried to land on Yontan field. Four were shot down, two in flames which I saw. The fifth made a belly landing on the field and the men set fire to 2 600-drum gasoline dumps and destroyed 8 planes, mostly transports. About 8 of the Japs were shot. They had maps and photographs of the field with arrows and circles marking points to be attacked. Ie Shima and Kadena fields were bombed without severe effect. About [35 - *scored through*] <75> Jap planes were shot down [mostly - *scored through*] <23 of them> by A.A. Some bombs dropped in the naval area of Ie Shima killing 30 and wounding 30.

A bridge was established by the 6th Mardiv into Naha and tanks gotten across but the mud prevents their effective use there or elsewhere.

(Two days later 70 Japs were buried from the five planes that attacked Yontan. All 14 from the one that landed were eventually killed. One wounded Jap played possum and threw a grenade, killing one man and maiming two.)

Friday May 25: On the way to Yontan Field this morning, saw a mongoose cross the road. Yesterday I saw a flock of 25 white herons feeding. No dogs and only 3 cats seen on the island. 2 of the latter were bob-tails. Wild white lilies are in bloom, also some very pretty red gladioli. It appears that this place would blossom like Hawaii if flowers were planted but the Okinawans can't spare the land. They can scarcely live off of 2 acres per family if they use any of the land for flower

gardens. They eat bread and die and seem to have no pleasures other than building tombs.

Deluges of rain came down all day, completely immobilizing all tanks. Despite this, the 7th Div made several hundred yards to the south. Japs are appearing in the open more often, which keeps up the killing rate despite slow progress.

Saturday May 26: Rain continued all day with a short break in the afternoon marked by an air raid on shipping, 1 ship reported hit by 2 suicide planes.

The 7th Div made slight progress. Adm Halsey and some of his staff came ashore in the afternoon to ask what I thought about withdrawing the fast carriers from protecting Okinawa and giving them an offensive mission. I told him that Mr Scipio Africanus¹ had acquired an enviable reputation by displaying similar sentiments.

Had supper with John DeWitt in an embellished Okinawan house with three navy nurses and danced after supper to the accompaniment of Radio Tokyo and artillery fire.

¹ 236-184BC, Roman general, and victor over Hannibal at the Battle of Zama, 212BC, during the 2nd Punic War

Sunday May 27: Still bogged down in the mud with no advance, tanks unable to move and supply difficult. About 6" of rain in 48 hours.

Post and I had dinner with Mulcahy followed by a poor 16mm movie that was stopped in the middle by a considerate air raid.

Monday May 28: Still wet and sprinkling all day. Heavy air attacks continue, nevertheless. Stubborn resistance against all advances except on the extreme flanks where some progress was made.

I slogged my way in a jeep to the 27th Div C.P. Griner is moving northward and combing the island for Japs. Thinks he has over 100 with 10 heavy machine guns cornered in the mountains. He says the Okinawan civilians are stealing our food and giving it to the Japs.

Suiciders hit 3 ships in Nagakusuku Wan. None sunk.

Tuesday 29 May: Strong enemy resistance still confronts the 77th & 96th Divs and the right of the 7th. However, the 7th has now advanced 3000 yds south of and 2000 yds west of Yonabaru. The Naha and Shuri fronts have apparently been deserted permitting the 6th & 1st Mardivs to advance from 1000 to 1800 yds giving most of Naha to the 6th and Shuri Castle to the 1st with almost no opposition[.]

I ordered a rapid drive to the southeast by the III Phibcorps, changing the corps boundary so as to pinch out the 77th Div. The XXIV Corps was ordered to drive west with the 7th Div and meet the III Phibcorps, thus cutting off the Japs still holding the line. The 7th also to be prepared to make a turn later to the south so as to outflank the next fortified line to the south if the enemy gets back to it. It looks as though the envelopment by the 7th had forced a withdrawal but the Japs made the decision to withdraw after it was too late. Developments will show.

Wednesday May 30: At 9:00 AM, I went to the 7th Div cemetery and made a Memorial Day address to the assembled Army chaplains, after which they dispersed to hold services at their respective Div. cemeteries.

Some progress along the line, with evident enemy weakening. If our estimates of enemy casualties are approximately correct, the Japs will be unable to reorganize another line. I have directed unremitting pressure. Supply and evacuation are our main problems. I am a little disappointed in the progress of the 6th Mardiv on our right. The 7th on the

left has done remarkably well. We have had about a foot of rain in one week. Some troops have been taken from airfield construction and put on roads. I shall probably be taken to task for this by higher Hq.; but it is the right thing to do.

Thursday May 31: The entire enemy line appears to be crumbling. The two enveloping prongs were directed to join south of the Shuri position, the XXIV Corps to drive southeast to the coast and prevent the enemy from retiring to the [blank] Peninsula and the III Phibcorps to secure the port and airfield of Naha. Supplies being pressed southward by water to new beaches.

Iheya landing was to have been made but Adm Hill notified us it had been postponed due to local conditions.

Friday June 1: Bad roads precluded my going to the front. Progress continues against weak resistance.

Iheya attack force anchored off Hagushi beaches awaiting orders.

Saturday June 2: 7th Div still advancing with 96th pinching out 77th.

1st Mardiv seems stuck for no apparent reason. Told Geiger to start them moving (through his C of S whom I found at this C.P. in his absence)

Iheya attack scheduled for 10:30 tomorrow.

Sunday June 3: Went to church. Flowers in Arty shells.

Talked to Geiger after breakfast and told him to get the 1st Mardiv off its tail. Told him I was dissatisfied with its progress. Sent O.P. Smith down to investigate.

7th Div cut through to southern coast and started with 1 Regt out

[to] the Chinen Peninsula. Arnold had delivered to me a bottle of sea water and beach sand and a picture of two soldiers bathing their feet on the southern shore.

Jos Stilwell¹ arrived by air from Manila unannounced at 3:00 PM. With him were Maj Gen's Heilman & Donovan and Brig Gen Burgin.

Regt 2d Mardiv. landed on Iheya without opposition. No Japs found. Radio station captured intact

¹ Gen Joseph W. Stilwell succeeded Geiger as commander on June 23. See March 13 n.

Monday June 4: 6th Mardiv made amphibious landing just south of Naha, met little resistance and advanced about 1,000 yds.

Regt from 2d Mardiv reported that landing yesterday on Iheya was successful. No Jap troops found there. Radio station undamaged.

Stilwell's party went to visit XXIV Corps, 96th Div & 7th Div CPs and spent the night presumably with the 7th.

7th Div moving south (well) & 96th south against light resistance. Corps boundary changed to XXIV practically all the enemy position due to slow progress of III Phibcorps. 1st Mardiv moving slowly but is still so far behind that the 96th Div right flank has to be protected by troops that could be used profitably elsewhere.

Supplies now land at Yonabaru.

Heavy rain today. Typhoon reported passing east of us.

Tuesday June 5: R[ea]r Adm Cottis, in Chg. Yds. & Docks for [sic] Adm Nimitz arrived to examine into airfield and base construction by CB's.

Stilwell's party came back and looked the islands over from cub planes. [Went too close to the Jap lines and got shot at by AAA. -

scored through]

Hodge called up and said that Col May, 383d Inf had been killed near Ewa. I regarded him as the best Regtl Comdr in the Tenth Army and outstanding Gen. officer material. Had just recommended his promotion.

1st Mardiv still trailing behind the 96th Div.

Wednesday June 6: By using a jeep, a command car and three tractors I finally mudded my way via the III Phibcorps & 1st Mardiv to the 7th Mar. regt CP. My object was to go to Iwa and look over conditions so as to see whether there was any excuse for the 1st Mardiv's being behind the 96th Div. At the 7th CP I met B.G. Jones (Asst Div Comdr, 1st Marines.) who had just heard that the Div had caught up, so I returned to my CP after telling them the purpose of my trip.

Stilwell party visited 77th & 96 Div CPs.

A new Jap defensive line being developed behing [*sic*] the escarpment in the south of the island. 6th Mardiv made a little progress, taking the rest of Naha airfield and putting a ponton [*sic*] bridge across the inlet.

Thursday June 7: Stilwell party left for Manila.

At press conference, Stilwell said press had underpublicised and failed to appreciate this campaign either in hardships overcome[,] ferocity of fighting or colorful events.

Flew over southern part of island in a cub with Bentley. Followed front line and reconnoitered plateau position defended by enemy. A tough nut to crack. Stone cliffs full of caves except a difficult approach from the southeast and a somewhat easier one on the west.

1st Mardiv broke through to west coast. Tails up again. Geiger also

feels better. After riding both somewhat I gave them a little praise today.

Friday June 8: Aguni landing postponed until tomorrow. Gen Hunt USMC in for lunch today on return from Iheya landing. Returns to his ship today.

Wallace¹ came in feeling downhearted and "Sniped at." I was rather severe with him over laxity in permitting unnecessary burning of native houses. I shall have to let him stew a couple of days before giving him any encouragement. He is too sensitive and is inclined to feel that he is persecuted. However, he has ability.

Directive came directing future activities of Tenth Army over which I have every reason to be jubilant.

¹ Maj Gen Fred C. Wallace, a senior military government officer. 'Assigned to the Tenth Army for the execution of the Base Development Plan was the Island Command Okinawa, or Army Garrison Force, with [Wallace] in command.' (Appleman, p.39. See also p.35)

Saturday June 9: Aguni landing reported without resistance. 1 Jap jumped off cliff.

Visited III Phibcorps and 1st & 6th Mardiv. CP's. All commanders in high spirits.

6th Mardiv has now surrounded an estimated 1500 Jap naval personnel. 50 committed suicide last night. Their commander, a naval captain is reported to have been among them. 1st Mardiv now up against main position in the south. About 15,000 troops estimated to be there.

Last night Jap planes tried to drop artillery fuzes to them by parachute. Most of them fell in the water and 1 'chute within our lines.

Will drop offer of surrender to Japs tomorrow with little hope of results but largely at the behest of psychological warfare "experts".

Sunday June 10: Attended morning [church] services. Chap[lain]. Hillyer had a photographer there and photographed me as "Exhibit A". When the first services ended, the group for second services were there and he wanted me to pose for a picture with the second group. I declined, saying that I regarded the services as being devoted to the Lord rather than to the photographer.

Adm. Hill dropped in. Wants to speed up radio fighter control stations - (So do we)

Monday June 11: Adm Byrd¹ arriving by plane to see Adm Hill. Sending him a small can of pemmican² in a large basket with the compliments of the Tenth Army.

Mulcahy came to say good-bye. He is being replaced by Maj. Gen. Wood.

96th Div got 1 Bn up to the rim of the escarpment. Right of 1st Mardiv made a little progress. 7th Div took "hill 95" with 60 caves in it.

¹ Rear Adm Richard E. Byrd, coming out of retirement served on special assignments during the war.

² dried pounded meat, North American Indian style

Tuesday June 12: Adm Byrd came ashore and, after a very pleasant talk, I sent him on an island tour.

Shick brought in a clipping from The NY Herald by David Lawrence apparently instigated by Mr Bigger here and saying that the Okinawa campaign was a monumental fiasco of incompetent bungling and demanding that I be investigated for not using the Marines for an amphibious envelopment. He also announced friction between army and marines here. Evidently he is seeking to raise a newspaper controversy. The enemy should be pleased by his services for them.

The 6th Mardiv expects to clear up their area tomorrow. The first

Mardiv has at last advanced to the main enemy position. The 7th Div is meeting many counter-attacks near Hill 95 on the left and, along with the 96th on the right have a foothold on the escarpment.

Wednesday June 13: Heavy fighting continues without much gain except on the left of the 7th Div. About 1,000 Japs killed. Dropped 45 plane-loads of napalm on reported location of enemy army CP.

Went to visit Adm Hill and Adm Byrd on the former's flagship.

6th Mardiv subdued all organized resistance on Oroku Peninsula. About 3500 Japs killed in all on this position, mostly navy personnel. Over 50 surrendered, including a couple of officers, one accompanied by his wife. A number blew themselves up with grenades.

Thursday June 14: Spent day visiting Bn O.P.'s in 96th & 7th Divs. Got a good look at the hostile position. On way back stopped at the two Div OP's. Arnold and Bradley in high spirits, having each gotten a Bn and a number of tanks on top of the plateau and well into the enemy position.

The 383d Inf had its new Col badly wounded and his successor had just arrived when I was at the OP. Last night a Bn advanced into a mine field, lost 3 Co Commanders and a Bn staff officer and fell back.

They are cleaning out the mine field today.

This is Adele's birthday.¹

¹ the General's wife

Friday June 15: Investigated burning of some shacks by Engrs in Machinato. Found it justifiable.

Had press conference at 4:00 P.M. outlining whole campaign. Stressed teamwork rather than spectacular events but gave credit to

May and 383d Inf for taking "Conical Hill" which made envelopment of Shuri position possible but dwelt on the importance of pressure by other units.

Saturday June 16: XXIV Corps has half of the plateau. Japs are beginning to blow themselves up or cut their own throats. A dozen or so did so today. Large attempts at infiltration. 6th Mardiv and 8th Mar. Regt from 2d Mardiv. to go in line on the right tomorrow. Looks as though the enemy were at the end of his [*sic*] rope so far as organized defense is concerned as soon as we get the rest of the plateau [*sic*].

Moved to new C.P. this evening after supper.

Sunday June 17: Inspected naval base developments on east coast.

No progress by our XXIV Corps and stiffer resistance as result of Japs' 32d Div remnants reinforcing line there. About 700 yds progress in center of II Phibcorps zone.