

TIMELINE FOR THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA 1945

MARCH 25-31: ALLIES BOMBARD OKINAWA BOTH BY SEA AND BY AIR TO PREPARE FOR THE LANDINGS

APRIL 1: LOVE DAY—TENTH ARMY LANDS ON OKINAWA’S HAGUSHI BEACHES UNOPPOSED

APRIL 6/7: FIRST OF TEN MAJOR KAMIKAZE ATTACKS (MAJOR ATTACKS CALLED KIKUSUI OR “FLOATING CHRYSANTHEMUMS”)

APRIL 7: SINKING OF THE GIANT JAPANESE BATTLESHIP, YAMATO, BY ALLIES (IT HAD BEEN SENT TO OKINAWA ON A SUICIDE MISSION, WITH ONLY ENOUGH FUEL FOR A ONE WAY TRIP.)

APRIL 22: KEMPER PARK HONOREE TILLIO A. SANTANGELO KILLED IN KAMIKAZE ATTACK ON USS ISHERWOOD WHILE AT PICKET STATION # 1

MAY 1: 1ST MARINE DIVISION REPLACES EXHAUSTED 27TH DIVISION

MAY 4: KEMPER PARK HONOREE JOSEPH JOHN SGANGA KILLED IN KAMIKAZE ATTACK ON USS MORRISON AT PICKET STATION # 1

MAY 4-6: ALLIES REPULSE MAJOR JAPANESE COUNTER-ATTACK

MAY 6-12: KEMPER PARK HONOREES DUNCAN CRANE, WOODROW W. JOHNS, ROBERT FRYE AND KENNETH J. FOSTER KILLED IN ACTION NORTH OF SHURI CASTLE (ALL WERE WITH THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION.)

MAY 8: V-E DAY (WAR IN EUROPE OVER)

MAY 13-19: 6TH MARINE DIVISION ASSAULTS SUGAR LOAF HILL

MAY 28: KEMPER PARK HONOREE THOMAS SULLIVAN KILLED IN KAMIKAZE ATTACK ON USS DREXLER AT PICKET STATION #15

JUNE 19: GENERAL SIMON BOLIVAR BUCKNER, COMMANDER OF THE TENTH ARMY, KILLED IN ACTION

JUNE 21: OKINAWA IS DECLARED SECURE AND THE BATTLE OVER

JUNE 22: JAPANESE COMMANDERS ON OKINAWA, GENERAL MITSURA USHIJIMA AND GENERAL ISAMURA CHO, COMMIT RITUAL SUICIDE

JUNE 29: KEMPER PARK HONOREE AND CORSAIR PILOT JOHN LANDSBURG KILLED WHEN A BOMB HE IS DROPPING EXPLODES UPON ITS RELEASE