



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors - Hawaii State Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

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January 2007

A PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR REMEMBERS

by Kris Ann Hegle, reprinted with the author's permission from the MOAA website

LTC Lawrence "Hank" Heyenga, USAR-Ret., was a 24-year-old second lieutenant stationed at Schofield Barracks when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 Dec 1941. Assigned to the Army's 25th Division, 89th Field Artillery Battalion, Heyenga was living just across the bridge from Schofield in Wahiawa when Japanese bombers began the attack at 7:55 a.m.

"We knew something was going to happen, but we didn't know where," says Heyenga. "We expected the Japanese would attack the Philippines, in fact, we discussed it quite often. No one expected it would be Hawaii."

Heyenga and other soldiers in the area immediately jumped in their cars and headed to Schofield. When they arrived, the Japanese were strafing the barracks where the soldiers from the 89th were housed, and one of Heyenga's friends was injured.

During this period of "organized chaos," Heyenga received orders to take an artillery battery to the windward side of the island via Honolulu. Heyenga and his men left Schofield and drove past burning P-40 fighter planes at Wheeler Field and burning bombers at Hickam AFB, which were parked in groups to defend



Newscaster Tom Brokaw greets Hawaii Chapter member LTC Lawrence "Hank" Heyenga, USAR-Ret., at a wreath laying ceremony at the Arizona Memorial on 7 December. Brokaw was the keynote speaker at the 65th anniversary celebration, which paid tribute to Pearl Harbor Survivors and World War II veterans who are members of "the greatest generation."

against possible saboteurs. By the time they reached Pearl Harbor, many of the ships were engulfed in flames-including the USS Arizona. The Arizona had been hit by a 1,760 lb. armor-piercing bomb that slammed through its deck and ignited the forward ammunition magazine. The ship sank in less than nine minutes, taking 1,177 of its crew to the bottom of the harbor.

Repeated torpedo attacks caused the USS Oklahoma to capsize, trapping more than 400 men inside, and the California and West Virginia were sunk at their moorings. The Utah, a converted training ship, capsized with more than 50 of its crew, and the Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee suffered significant damage. The Nevada attempted to run out to sea but sustained several hits, which forced it to beach to avoid sinking and blocking the entrance to the harbor.

The attack lasted an hour and 45 minutes. When it was over, the U.S. Navy had suffered the greatest defeat in its history, with 21 vessels sunk or damaged. American dead totaled 2,390, including 49 civilians.

(Continued on Page 5)

Coming Events January

6 Jan (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000
Computer Training, Oahu Veterans Center

8 Jan (Mon) PAC Mtg USCG Station, Sand Island
General Mess 1100

9 Jan (Tue) Excom Mtg., MCBH O'Club 1130

13 Jan (Sat) Lunch and Tour, 1000
New Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island

Coming Events February

3 Feb (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000
Computer Training, Oahu Veterans Center

16 Feb (Fri) Excom Mtg., MCBH O'Club 1130

Representative Ed Case has been invited to speak
at a MOAA luncheon tentatively scheduled to take
place at Ft Shafter the 3rd week in February.
Date & Time TBD.

PERSPECTIVES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR *by Colonel John Harms – USMC (Ret.)*



DO YOU REMEMBER JUST PRIOR TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY IN 1999 WHEN SOME MINOR PANIC BUTTON WAS BEING PRESSED WITH THE GLOOM AND DOOM THAT COMPUTERS, WITH THEIR TWO DIGIT DATE COUNTERS WOULD REVERT TO 1900 AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT 2000. EVERYTHING WAS BEING PLASTERED WITH “YEAR 2000 COMPLIANT”, THE US GOVERNMENT HAD LARGE TEAMS TRYING TO ANALYZE WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ALL THEIR DATA AND OPERATIONAL COMPUTERS IF THE YEAR 1900 DROPPED INTO PLACE.

I COULD JUST SEE OUR AUTOMOBILE COMPUTERS (AVERAGE THREE FOR A MODERN CAR) DROPPING TO

1900 AND ASKING WHERE IS HENRY FORD. THE TIME CAME AND WENT AND NOTHING HAPPENED. ALL CONTINUED AS NORMAL, WHATEVER NORMAL IS.

NOW THE QUESTION IS, ARE WE 2007 COMPLIANT? MY STANDARD PROCESS IS TO REVIEW MY TRUST, WILL, LIVING WILL, AND POWER OF ATTORNEY WITH OUR ATTORNEY TO SEE IF THEY ARE ALL IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THEN I’LL SET UP A COUPLE OF OBJECTIVES THAT ARE SOMEWHAT REALISTIC THAT I WILL TRY TO REACH – LIKE REDUCING THE “HONEY DO” LIST FROM MY WIFE BY 25% (I THINK I COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT). THEN I’LL LOOK AT SOME OF THE DUMB THINGS I DID IN 2006 (ENOUGH OF THOSE TO GO AROUND) TO MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT WENT HAYWIRE, AND DON’T SCHEDULE A REPEAT PERFORMANCE. THEN BREAK OUT THE NEW CALENDAR

OR “OUTLOOK” ON MY COMPUTER AND PUT IN THE BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER KEY EVENTS THAT I WANT TO INSURE WE REMEMBER THIS YEAR (WITH “SENIOR MOMENTS” OFTEN CROPPING UP, THIS BECOMES AN INVALUABLE DOCUMENT). AND, PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT IS TO GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE LORD HAS GIVEN US LAST YEAR AND ASK FOR HIS CONTINUED GUIDANCE AND BLESSINGS FOR THIS COMING YEAR.

I’VE GIVEN UP ON “RESOLUTIONS” THAT LOOK NICE BUT NEVER GET ACCOMPLISHED, SO I USE THIS “AM I COMPLIANT WITH THE UPCOMING YEAR” PROCESS AND IT SEEMS TO WORK A BIT BETTER.

MAY ALL OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR, AND A CHANCE TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION MAY OR MAY NOT BE.

Semper Fidelis, John Harms

HELP WANTED

The Honolulu Post of the Society of Military Engineers will be sponsoring the Pacific Industry Transition Forum on 9 May 2007. They are in need of retirees for a panel relating to transitioning from the military to civilian life. Contact CAPT M. E. Cutts at Matthew.E.Cutts@USCG.mil or 808-842-2005. If you e-mail, please copy Chapter Member Jerry Lesperance at JLesperance@Hawaii.rr.com. CAPT Cutts, who is the commanding officer of the Coast Guard command at Sand Island, has been a good friend to MOAA in readily making facilities available to MOAA for meetings and dinners.

Thinning of the Ranks

LTC Edward Nicely, USA (Ret), died 20 December. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn.

Binnacle List

LTC William McGarry, AUS (Ret), continues in long term home healthcare.

EXCOM MEMBERS, note the special date and time for the January meeting, Tuesday, 9 January 2007.

CHAPTER DONATIONS FOR 2006

The following Chapter members have generously donated funds to either our Scholarship or Community Services Funds. Scholarships of \$1000 are awarded to deserving JROTC graduates from our State Public High Schools going to a four year university or college and \$500 for those going to a two year community college. Community Services contributions go to the VA Center for Aging, the Fisher House at TAMC, and the USO, to mention a few. Mahalo for your kindness.

GOLD LEVEL (\$100 or more)

Ralph Hiatt, Tom Dixon, Hank Heyenga (X2), George and Roberta Sullivan, Doug Thomas, Judith Breitwieser, Frank Slocum, William Brown, Myrl Noggle (X2), Emiliano Gorgas (X2.5), Bruce Smith (X1.5), H William Burgess, Anne Slocum Main (X2.5) – in memory of Col. G. Main, Bill and Barbara Quirk, Jerry and Jeanne Lesperance, Dorothy Voseika - in memory of Col. Robert Voseika, Edwin McKellar (X2), Charlie Loo

SILVER LEVEL (\$50 to \$99)

Jack Miller, Tom Wells, Lloyd Vasey, Bill and Ellen McGarry, Charlie Kimak, Harland Cope, Ted and Marion Sholl, Virginia Frizelle, David Belatti, Richard Denison, Domingo Sanchez, Darrell Lodge Edward O'Shaughnessy, Ron and Mary Jo Bezanson

BRONZE LEVEL (\$25 to \$49)

Norman Ault, Robert Cybron, Marian Williams, Lucille Shreve, Bill Moore, Reg Fansler

If you have donated in these categories and do not see your name, please notify John Harms at: JandBHarms@aol.com

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The TRICARE Consumer Health Committee met at Tripler Army Medical Center on 5 December from 10:00-11:30 in the 10th Floor Conference Room. Admiral Bruce Smith and Barbara Stakk-Quirk represented MOAA Hawaii Chapter at this quarterly meeting chaired by the new commander at Tripler Army Medical Center, MG Carla Hawley-Bowland. The General was pleased to see so many representatives from various community groups in attendance in addition to hospital departments representatives. She was very receptive to suggestions for improvements to services provided to beneficiaries at Tripler as well as any positive comments and feedback. 1} The pharmacy is well aware of the long waits for prescriptions to be filled during the renovations of both the Inpatient and Outpatient Departments during the last 2 months and were very apologetic for the inconvenience. These major renovations include new automation and bar coding technology that a ROBOT performs when filling, capping and labeling medications to improve patient safety in dispensing. Also, additional seating is being implemented. Wait times have improved in December and Major Waltham-OIC of the Pharmacy offered this suggestion to aid customer service: Utilize the WILL CALL-Drop option. Leave off prescriptions at the pharmacy and return 2 hours later to pick-up at the Refill Pharmacy. NO waiting in line. This works well if you have other errands/appts to do. 2} Tricare information is now housed under one roof on the internet with beneficiaries in mind. Go to Tricare.mil to access 5 major choices for health care and benefits. 3} Parking spaces continue to be added at Tripler and the Tripler Trolley is available for transport to the hospital from parking spaces -- It has been very successful so far according to Mr. Devaney-Chief of Security. If any MOAA members have suggestions/concerns/questions that they would like to be addressed at this Consumer Health Committee please contact Barbara Stakk or Admiral Bruce Smith. Respectfully submitted, Barbara Stakk-Quirk.

Invasion . . . (Continued from Page 7)

could hold up to 1,000 troops.

In addition to the use of poison gas and bacteriological warfare (which the Japanese had experimented with), Japan mobilized its citizenry.

Had Olympic come about, the Japanese civilian population, inflamed by a national slogan - "One Hundred Million Will Die for the Emperor and Nation" - were prepared to fight to the death. Twenty Eight Million Japanese had become a part of the National Volunteer Combat Force. They were armed with ancient rifles, lunge mines, satchel charges, Molotov cocktails and one-shot black powder mortars. Others were armed with swords, long bows, axes and bamboo spears. The civilian units were to be used in nighttime attacks, hit and run maneuvers, delaying actions and massive suicide charges at the weaker American positions.

At the early stage of the invasion, 1,000 Japanese and American soldiers would be dying every hour.

The invasion of Japan never became a reality because on August 6, 1945, an atomic bomb was exploded over Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Within days the war with Japan was at a close.

Had these bombs not been dropped and had the invasion been launched as scheduled, combat casualties in Japan would have been at a minimum of the tens of thousands. Every foot of Japanese soil would have been paid for by Japanese and American lives.

One can only guess at how many civilians would have committed suicide in their homes or in futile mass military attacks.

In retrospect, the 1 million American men who were to be the casualties of the invasion, were instead lucky enough to survive the war.

Intelligence studies and military estimates made 50 years ago, and not latter-day speculation, clearly indicate that the battle for Japan might well have resulted in the biggest blood-bath in the history of modern warfare.

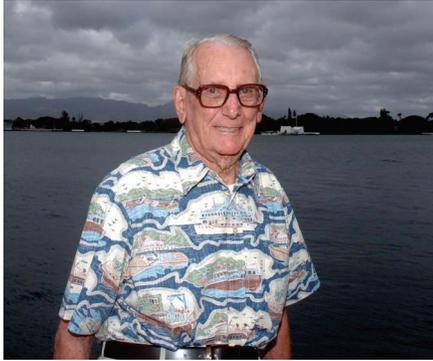
Far worse would be what might have happened to Japan as a nation and as a culture. When the invasion came, it would have come after several months of fire bombing all of the remaining Japanese cities. The cost in human life that resulted from the two atomic blasts would be small in comparison to the total number of Japanese lives that would have been lost by this aerial devastation. With American forces locked in combat in the south of Japan, little could have prevented the Soviet Union from marching into the northern half of the Japanese home islands. Japan today could be divided much like Korea and Germany.

The world was spared the cost of Operation Downfall, however, because Japan formally surrendered to the United Nations September 2, 1945, and World War II was over.

The aircraft carriers, cruisers and transport ships scheduled to carry the invasion troops to Japan, ferried home American troops in a gigantic operation called Magic Carpet.

In the fall of 1945, in the aftermath of the war, few people concerned themselves with the invasion plans. Following the surrender, the classified documents, maps, diagrams and appendices for Operation Downfall were packed away in boxes and eventually stored at the National Archives. These plans that called for the invasion of Japan paint a vivid description of what might have been one of the most horrible campaigns in the history of man. The fact that the story of the invasion of Japan is locked up in the National Archives and is not told in our history books is something for which all Americans can be thankful.

A Pearl Harbor Survivor Remembers (Cont'd from Page 1)



Heyenga and his men saw injured civilians as they moved thru Honolulu, and only later learned improperly fused anti-aircraft shells fired by Americans - not the Japanese - had resulted in the injuries and deaths.

"In the days and nights that followed, we didn't know what would come next," says Heyenga. "Rumors were that Japanese transports were standing off the north shore ready to unload troops and mechanization. At night, you could hear small arms fire going on over the island because you didn't know who was who because the island was in a complete blackout."

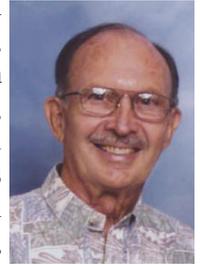
The invasion never came, and Heyenga went on to serve his country in the Pacific, relieving Marines at Guadalcanal

and later taking part in the invasion and liberation of the Philippines.

After the war ended, Heyenga married and had a son. When he retired from the service, he went to work at Honolulu Iron Works. Still a Hawaii resident, he participates in anniversary ceremonies at Pearl Harbor every year as a member of the Hawaii Chapter by laying a wreath at the Arizona Memorial.

New Vice President

Our new 2nd Vice President and Program Coordinator is Jim Gebhard, Colonel, USAF (Retired). Jim served 23 years in the Air Force as a flight navigator, meteorologist, and operations staff. In retirement he went to work with Hughes Aircraft for 17 years. His final position was as Vice President, South-East Asia, Hughes International, stationed in Singapore. He now lives in Kailua with Dion, his wife of 50 years. They have two children and one grandchild.



VISIT AND TOUR THE NEW PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM ON FORD ISLAND CHAPTER SPECIAL EVENT

**Date: Saturday, January 13, 2007
Guided Tour: Starts at 1000 A.M.**

Please be on time

Lunch: Cold cut sandwich combo and a drink at 1130 A.M.

Cost: \$10.00 per person for both lunch and tour

Checks to be made out to: Hawaii State Chapter MOAA

Mail Reservations to: Kathy DeLong, 98-360 Koauka Loop, #209, Aiea, HI 96701

Reservations MUST be received by January 5, 2007

Ample parking on Ford Island available, but military ID necessary for base entry.

IF you do not have a valid military ID please indicate below so we can set up a list for the sentry.

Questions, call Kathy DeLong at 486-0439

-----Cut out or copy and return with reservation-----

Names: _____

Payment for Luncheon: #: __ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

Donation for Chapter / / Scholarships or / / Community Service \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

HAVE: _____ DO NOT HAVE: _____ Military ID For Base Entry



TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired) T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS... A WISH LIST

When you read this it will of course be January 2007, but I was writing it in December, before Christmas, not quite the night before, more like the week, so you can see where I'm going based on the title! I have, as usual, been surfing the 'net and based on what I've found in the past 2 or 3 weeks, I have put together a wish list. First of all, my kind of wish list has no rules as far as size, type or, most important, cost...which is to say, I have some things that will never make it under the tree and some that hopefully will. You also need to know, I have in most cases, only seen a picture, not the real deal, but I also have only put things on the list that several others have reviewed to my satisfaction. So, what you will see is a sort of summary/description of the item, sometimes part of a review I really liked, followed by a url, usually the address of the manufacturer, where you can go to read what they say and look at a picture of it.

OK, so, with all that said, here goes:

MAGPIX B350 Digital Camera Binocular - - I have owned the model, for 3 years. I have never been more satisfied with my pictures. I've gotten lots of wildlife, I never would have gotten a picture of. Even a jet picture in the air. It does that, too. I ride along in my car and take pictures. It's a super camera for the cost. I take cemetery pictures. It does great when you can't get close to the headstones, or they are surrounded by brush. You can acquire your picture from way back. Just try it. You'll never be upset with your purchase I even made DVD's with my pictures from the program that comes with the camera. Very pleased. **That's the review that caught my eye and made me look at the url:** <http://www.magpix.com/products/B350.html>

BOSE Companion 2 Series II Multimedia Speaker System - - The Bose® Companion® 2 multimedia speaker system represents a significant upgrade in sound and style over original equipment computer speakers. Enjoy sharp, expansive sound for music, movies and games. These sleek and compact speakers fit easily in their surroundings to save useful desk space. Dual inputs make it a snap to connect your computer and portable audio sources at the same time. Both volume and the headphone jack reside on the front of one speaker to provide easy control over your listening experience. That's what Bose says, and in this case, I agree, as I have looked at and listened to this setup. It's pretty inexpensive, considering it's a Bose! Here is the url: <http://tinyurl.com/yjajwj>

Quick, Portable and Easy Photo Printing. Anytime. Anywhere - - Although most of the reviews were very much alike, I was hooked by the anytime, anywhere feature...yup, with the optional battery pack, you can take it and print anywhere. It's also got an optional Bluetooth adapter for wireless printing...this is definitely my kind of gadget! One of the newest faces on the inkjet block, the compact Canon Pixma mini260 has been designed with portability in mind and even has a fold-out handle to prove it. Most of the action centers on what is called the easy-scroll wheel - a dial used to navigate through the straightforward menu system in the same way you would on an iPod. There's also a button dedicated to simplifying the menu navigation process by calling up a list of common printing and maintenance tasks, and offering fast access to each as well as user guidance. The slideshow option in the main menu shows all the images stored on a memory card or connected digital camera in succession on the crystal-clear 2.5in LCD screen, which can be tilted to give the best viewing angle. Seven different memory card formats are supported as standard as well as PictBridge and Digital Print Order Format (DPOF) for direct printing from a compatible camera and infrared to print from a camera phone. All the usual layout options are available. The Album Page setting is an interesting one and lets you print up to four images per page with space for captions or comments alongside. Manual adjustments can be made to contrast and hue and there's a sepia filter, red eye correction and image optimization settings including face brightening and a vivid color setting. A great little printer with a reasonable price tag, the mini260 will do your snaps justice. Here is the Canon url for this gem: <http://tinyurl.com/yadpg3>

Economical GPS for the Car - - OK, so who needs a GPS in Hawaii? I admit I don't and also have to confess I don't go to the mainland that much, but a trip in December sold me on the little devil, so I would kinda like one to take with me on future trips. TomTom One, is what I got to use and I love the size. It's a solid GPS system, with a lot of the features that anyone should ever want. TomTom has a relationship and structural advantage with their TomTom plus services and their TomTom home computer program that serves as a conduit for new maps, voices and more. With a Bluetooth phone, you can get access to a lot of data from TomTom. For lots more info go to the url: <http://tinyurl.com/yjpp7n>

BlackBerry Pearl - - I have resisted the urge to get on the berry wagon for a long time, however, it looks like they have finally gotten me interested! RIM has introduced the BlackBerry Pearl, a quad-band GSM/GPRS/EDGE smartphone that not only includes a camera but also plays MP3 audio files and digital videos and displays photos on its bright color LCD. The list of applications is a long one, headed by the usual excellent BlackBerry e-mail, calendar, phone book and to-do applets. It also includes RIM's BlackBerry browser, an online maps application (which you pay extra to use), alarms, voice notes, calculator, Voice Activated Dialing (VAD) and three different instant messenger clients - RIM's own, Yahoo and GoogleTalk, which lets you place VoIP calls to other users. If you, like me, are curious to learn more, visit: <http://www.discoverblackberry.com/>

Canon EOS Rebel XTi Black SLR Digital Camera Kit - - This one is my favorite. Overall, it looks to be the best entry level DSLR. It is very well made even though it's plastic. But that of course, makes it light too. All reviews I read give it high marks for image quality and very natural color representation. Other mentions are fast startup, fast contiguous shooting and low light performance. Auto focus is fast and accurate. All also said it is easy to use. 2.0 inch LCD is impressive for playback, and it's fast to load pictures, or delete them. Battery life seems to be good, although most of the reviews were from fairly new users. The url: <http://tinyurl.com/ojojt>

Panasonic TH-50PX60U 50 inch Plasma HDTV - - Remember, I said cost is not a factor...so, this might not make it under my tree this year, but I can still dream, can't I? It really is one of the best deals in the 50 inch segment. Amazon sells this Plasma HDTV for \$2,539.99. It features the latest G9 panel with 10,000:1 contrast ratio. 50 inch is the sweet spot for the lowest Plasma prices this holiday season. Here is the url: <http://tinyurl.com/yfpxcx>

That's it for now, you can read my complete column on the Oceanic Around Town Hawaii web page: <http://tinyurl.com/z3wcm>
Until next time, have fun with all those computer and electronic goodies, but remember to be careful out there on the 'net! Come see us at one of our two regular monthly meetings. BTW, we have moved to a new location for the first Sat of the month meetings. Visit www.the-tug.org for schedules and directions.

Aloha, *Lou*

Invasion Not Found in the History Books by James Martin Davis (**Cont'd from December PHK**)

This article originally appeared Nov 1987 in the *Omaha World Herald*; it is reprinted here with the author's permission.)

Once offshore, the invasion fleet would be forced to defend not only against the attacks from the air, but would also be confronted with suicide attacks from sea. Japan had established a suicide naval attack unit of midget submarines, human torpedoes and exploding motorboats.

The goal of the Japanese was to shatter the invasion before the landing. The Japanese were convinced the Americans would back off or become so demoralized that they would then accept a less-than-unconditional surrender and a more honorable and face-saving end for the Japanese.

But as horrible as the battle of Japan would be off the beaches, it would be on Japanese soil that the American forces would face the most rugged and fanatical defense encountered during the war.

Throughout the island-hopping Pacific campaign, Allied troops had always out numbered the Japanese by 2 to 1 and sometimes 3 to 1. In Japan it would be different. By virtue of a combination of cunning, guesswork, and brilliant military reasoning, a number of Japan's top military leaders were able to deduce, not only when, but where, the United States would land its first invasion forces.

Facing the 14 American divisions landing at Kyushu would be 14 Japanese divisions, 7 independent mixed brigades, 3 tank brigades and thousands of naval troops. On Kyushu the odds would be 3 to 2 in favor of the Japanese, with 790,000 enemy defenders against 550,000 Americans. This time the bulk of the Japanese defenders would not be the poorly trained and ill-equipped labor battalions that the Americans had faced in the earlier campaigns.

The Japanese defenders would be the hard core of the home army. These troops were well-fed and well equipped. They were familiar with the terrain, had stockpiles of arms and

ammunition, and had developed an effective system of transportation and supply almost invisible from the air. Many of these Japanese troops were the elite of the army, and they were swollen with a fanatical fighting spirit.

Japan's network of beach defenses consisted of offshore mines, thousands of suicide scuba divers attacking landing craft, and mines planted on the beaches. Coming ashore, the American Eastern amphibious assault forces at Miyazaki would face three Japanese divisions, and two others poised for counterattack. Awaiting the Southeastern attack force at Ariake Bay was an entire division and at least one mixed infantry brigade.

On the western shores of Kyushu, the Marines would face the most brutal opposition. Along the invasion beaches would be the three Japanese divisions, a tank brigade, a mixed infantry brigade and an artillery command. Components of two divisions would also be poised to launch counterattacks.

If not needed to reinforce the primary landing beaches, the American Reserve Force would be landed at the base of Kagoshima Bay November 4, where they would be confronted by two mixed infantry brigades, parts of two infantry divisions and thousands of naval troops.

All along the invasion beaches, American troops would face coastal batteries, anti-landing obstacles and a network of heavily fortified pillboxes, bunkers, and underground fortresses. As Americans waded ashore, they would face intense artillery and mortar fire as they worked their way through concrete rubble and barbed-wire entanglements arranged to funnel them into the muzzles of these Japanese guns.

On the beaches and beyond would be hundreds of Japanese machine

gun positions, beach mines, booby traps, trip-wire mines and sniper units. Suicide units concealed in "spider holes" would engage the troops as they passed nearby. In the heat of battle, Japanese infiltration units would be sent to reap havoc in the American lines by cutting phone and communication lines. Some of the Japanese troops would be in American uniform, English-speaking Japanese officers were assigned to break in on American radio traffic to call off artillery fire, to order retreats and to further confuse troops. Other infiltration with demolition charges strapped on their chests or backs would attempt to blow up American tanks, artillery pieces and ammunition stores as they were unloaded ashore.

Beyond the beaches were large artillery pieces situated to bring down a curtain of fire on the beach. Some of these large guns were mounted on railroad tracks running in and out of caves protected by concrete and steel.

The battle for Japan would be won by what Simon Bolivar Buckner, a lieutenant general in the Confederate army during the Civil War, had called "Prairie Dog Warfare." This type of fighting was almost unknown to the ground troops in Europe and the Mediterranean. It was peculiar only to the soldiers and Marines who fought the Japanese on islands all over the Pacific -- at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Prairie Dog Warfare was a battle for yards, feet and sometimes inches. It was brutal, deadly and dangerous form of combat aimed at an underground, heavily fortified, non-retreating enemy.

In the mountains behind the Japanese beaches were underground networks of caves, bunkers, command posts and hospitals connected by miles of tunnels with dozens of entrances and exits. Some of these complexes could (**Cont'd on Page 4**)

