

SECRET

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No. 25

FIELD ORDER

ONE ABLE

728<sup>th</sup>



AMTRAC

<p><b>CAUTION</b></p> <p>Every precaution will be taken to prevent this from falling into enemy hands. Only necessary precautions will be taken forward of BATT</p>	<p>CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:</p> <p><b>SECRET</b></p> <p>BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL</p>	<p>19</p>
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DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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ERRATA SHEET to FO 1A

1. Since the publishing of FO 1A, the following changes have been made:

a. ANNEX CHARLIE to FO 1A

Paragraph 2a (1) now reads "SC 1311, and SC 1323 which will mark the LOD at the centre of Beaches WHITE 1 and WHITE 2 & 3 respectively" change to read "SC 1311, and SC 1323 which will mark the LOD and the right flank of BEACH WHITE 1 and the centre of BEACHES WHITE 2 & 3 respectively."

Paragraph 3 a (2) now reads "so as to arrive in this position by H plus 60" change to read "on call from Bn 3-3, approximately H plus 60"

Paragraph 5 a (1) on third line change word "no" to read "only".

Appendix 3 to ANNEX CHARLIE (Wave schedule) Change 4th wave to read "8 boats" instead of "7 boats" and change 6th wave to read "7 boats" instead of "8 boats" on Beach WHITE 2 & 3 only.

2. ALTERNATE PLAN, FO 1B

a. Should change in plans necessitate issuance of message "Execute plan FO 1B", all parts of FO 1A and Annexes will apply except as follows:

Wherever words BEACH "WHITE 1, 2 or 3" appear, change to read BEACH "YELLOW 1, 2 or 3" respectively.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX DOG should be removed and alternate diagram substituted. (Alternate diagram distributed with map issue,

MANN  
CMCG

OFFICIAL *Gardner*  
23

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AUTH: CG, 96th Inf Div.  
INITIALS: s/CTDeH, G-3.  
5 March 1945.

Hq 720th Amph Trac Bn  
In the Field, APO 235.  
10 March 1945.

FO A.BLE.

MAPS: Operations Overlay, Annex ABLE.  
RYUKYU-REITO, 1/25,000.  
RYUKYU-REITO, 1/100,000.  
Photomap, 1/10,000.

1. a. Annex BAKER (Intelligence).

b. (1) Tenth Army, composed of XXIV Corps (Reinf), III Phib Corps (Reinf), 77th Inf Div (Reinf), 2d Mar Div (Reinf), 27th Inf Div and 81st Inf Div, Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, Commanding, Expeditionary Troops, ICEBERG, has been directed to assist in the capture, occupation, defense and development of OKINAWA IS and establishment of control of the sea and air in the NANSEI SHOTO (RYUKYU) area with the eventual aim of extending control of the NANSEI SHOTO by capturing, defending and developing additional positions.

(2) Landing operations in NANSEI SHOTO are to be preceded by shore-based air, and naval air and surface bombardment of objectives in FORMOSA, the NANSEI SHOTO, and the KYUSHU-WESTERN HONSHU area.

(3) Phases of the operation:

(a) Phase I

(1) On L - 6 Day, the capture of the islands of KERAMA RETTO for use as an advanced naval anchorage and sea plane base.

(2) Not later than L-1 Day, the capture of the islands of KEISE and emplacement of heavy artillery for support of operations on OKINAWA.

(3) On L Day, landing on the western shore of OKINAWA with Corps abreast, XXIV Corps on the right. Each Corps will land with divisions abreast.

(4) One Tenth Army Reserve division will effect a landing on the southeastern shore of OKINAWA on L and L plus 1 Days.

(5) Following the landing, the capture of OKINAWA IS south of the ISHIKAWI Isthmus.

(b) Phase II

Seizure of IE SHIMA, occupation of such portion of northern OKINAWA as necessary to establish control of the entire island, and development of additional base facilities in favorable localities.

(c) Phase III

Exploitation of our position in the NANSEI SHOTO, seizing and developing additional islands of the group.

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- (4) III Phib Corps, composed of 1st and 6th IAR Divs lands on Beaches north of HIGUSHI, secures airfield south of ZICHIM, protects the left (north) flank of the operation.
- (5) 77th Inf Div (Reinf) sweeps through KERIMA INLAND and KEISE SHIMA clearing hostile forces therefrom. Lands two 155mm gun battalions on KEISE SHIMA.
- (6) 2d IAR Div (Reinf) conducts feint landing on southeast coast of OKINAWA IS on L and L + Days.
- (7) 27th Inf Div (Reinf) in Army Reserve prepared to execute any of the Army Reserve plans.
- (8) 81st Inf Div (Reinf), at NEW CALEDONIA, in Area Reserve.
- (9) XXIV Corps, composed of 7th and 96th Inf Divs lands on Beaches PURPLE, ORANGE, WHITE and BROWN, south of HIGUSHI on OKINAWA IS, secures the KADEMA Airfield, protects the right (south) flank of the operation.
- (10) 7th Inf Div (Reinf), lands Beaches PURPLE and ORANGE, secures KADEMA Airfield, is to be prepared to continue the attack to the south along the east coast of OKINAWA IS.
- (11) 96th Inf Div (Reinf) (-382d Inf Reinf), lands Beaches WHITE and BROWN advances inland seizes commanding ground in its zone of action, protects the Corps right (south) flank.
- (12) RCT 381 lands at H-Hour on L Day on WHITE Beaches with two (2) Bns abreast advances rapidly inland removes enemy mortar and small arms fire from its beaches, captures commanding hills along the line SUKABE-SUKUSAMA Hill 102.
- (13) RCT 383 lands at H-Hour on L Day with two Bns abreast on BROWN Beaches, advances rapidly inland, removes enemy mortar and small arms fire from its beaches, seizes the high ground in its zone of action.
- (14) 382d Inf (Reinf), in Corps Reserve afloat, will be prepared to land at approximately 1200 I on L Day behind 7th or 96th Inf Divs to assist in the execution of the Corps mission.
- (15) 780th Amph Trk Bn precedes tractor waves, advances inland through seawall in direct support of RCTs, serving as artillery. If the seawall cannot be crossed, swings to the flanks and supports the advance from positions on the reef or beach in the intervals between beaches.
- (16) L Day 1 April 1945 (tentative), H-Hour to be announced (tentatively, 0830 I)

2. The 728th Amphibian Tractor Bn will:

- a. At H-Hour on L-Day transport two assault BLTs of RCT 381 landing on WHITE Beaches.
- b. Rally at sea, transfer and land Res BLT of RCT 381 on WHITE Beaches.
- c. Be prepared to:
  - (1) Transfer and land Res RCT on WHITE Beaches.
  - (2) Engage in Ship to Shore lighterage under SP control.

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3. a. Company A, 728th Amphibian Tractor Battalion will:
- (1) At H-Hour on L-Day transport BLT 381/1, landing on Beaches WHITE 2 & WHITE 3.
  - (2) Rally at sea, furnish waves 1 and 2 for transfer of Res BLT 381/2 from boats to LVTs landing on Beaches WHITE 2 and WHITE 3 on RCT order.
  - (3) Be prepared to:
    - (a) Furnish waves 1 and 2 for transfer of RCT 382 landing on Beach WHITE 2 and WHITE 3.
    - (b) Engage in Ship to Shore lighterage on Bn order.
- b. Company B, 728th Amphibian Tractor Battalion will:
- (1) At H-Hour on L-Day transport BLT 381/3, landing on Beach WHITE 1.
  - (2) Rally at sea, furnish waves 3, 4 and 5 for transfer of Res BLT 381/2 from boats to LVTs landing on Beaches WHITE 2 and WHITE 3 on RCT order.
  - (3) Be prepared to:
    - (a) Furnish waves 3, 4 and 5 for transfer of RCT 382 landing on Beaches WHITE 2 and WHITE 3.
    - (b) Engage in Ship to Shore lighterage on Bn order.
- c. Maintenance Section, 728th Amphibian Tractor Bn will follow 6th assault wave to transfer line, then move to Rally Area pending further instructions.
- d. Medical Detachment, 728th Amphibian Tractor Bn will move directly to Rally Area prepared to land on designated beach on order and establish forward Bn Aid Station.
- x.
- (1) This order is effective upon receipt. In the event it is rescinded and FO 1 BAKER is to be placed in effect, message order will be issued stating "Execute FO 1 BAKER".
  - (2) Elements on flanks of units temporarily held up by hostile resistance will not wait for the delayed unit, but will continue the assault giving every assistance to the delayed unit by outflanking the resistance and by fire. LVTs will not fire over friendly troops while waterborne.
  - (3) All commanders will insure adequate preparation of defenses against night counterattack. Particular attention will be paid to coordination of supporting night fires.
  - (4) All commanders will insure that adequate local defenses are established by all installations and command posts and that every Officer and enlisted man has a definitely assigned position and mission in case of attack. Only under extreme emergencies will combat troops be employed for direct defense of such installations.
  - (5) All units will organize their areas for defense against airborne attack to include a complete and speedy warning system, assignment of units to a definite area of local responsibility, and designation of reserves capable of quick movement.
  - (6) Tractor Bns will be utilized for tactical or supply missions only in connection with assault operations or shore party activities and beach defense.

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- (7) Needless destruction of friendly airplanes by indiscriminate fire has occurred in previous operations. Controlled AA units will fire only when cleared by proper control or when directly attacked, and no other individual or unit will fire at any aircraft except when direct attack. During hours of darkness, controlled AA units only will fire at any aircraft, and then only under proper clearance.
- (8) Commanders of all units will be held strictly responsible for the elimination of uncontrolled and indiscriminate firing by our own troops, and beginning with the initial landing will take such drastic measures as may be necessary to that end. All test firing will be supervised and conducted between 1200 and 1300. This organization will not test fire.
- (9) Joint Army-Navy command relations during the amphibious phase of the operation are normal. For ship to shore operations Naval Commanders exercise command of the landing force through the appropriate Army Commanders.
- (10) As far as practicable, all tracked vehicles, particularly tanks and LVTs will stay off existing roads and trails and move cross-country paralleling existing roads.
- (11) On L-Day offensive operations generally will cease at 1700 (1 hr. 45 min before sunset). On L plus 1 Day the advance will be resumed at 0800 (1 hr 39 mins after sunrise).
- (12) Road blocks in depth will be maintained in rear areas as may be needed for adequate protection.
- (13) Rally Areas at sea are in intervals between Beaches WHITE 1 and 2 as shown on OPERATIONS MAP ANTEX ABLE.
- (14) Bn S-3 aboard TransDiv 40 Control Boat.
- (15) Bn S-4 with CO 170th Engr Bn as Ln O.
- (16) Bn S-1 with Beachmaster Beach WHITE 1 as Ln O.
- (17) Hq Sv C.O. with Beachmaster Beach WHITE 3 as Ln O.
- (18) Ship to Shore Movement Plan Annex CHARLIE.

4. Adm O #1 Annex DOG.

5. a. SOI.

b. Zone Item time and East Longitude Date will be utilized in the objective area by both Army and Navy. Zone Item time will be written in sequence: Time group, zone description (e.g. 0800 Item).

c. CP's.

- (1) Rear CP - Bn SX remain afloat and mark rally area.  
Fwd CP afloat - LST 612.  
Fwd CP ashore - South limit Beach WHITE 1.

OFFICIAL: *D. S. 3.*

MEMO  
Comdg.

ANNEXES:

ABLE - Opn Overlay.  
BAKER - Intell.  
CHARLIE - Ship to Shore Movement Plan.  
DOG - Adm O.

DISTRIBUTION  
All Officers.

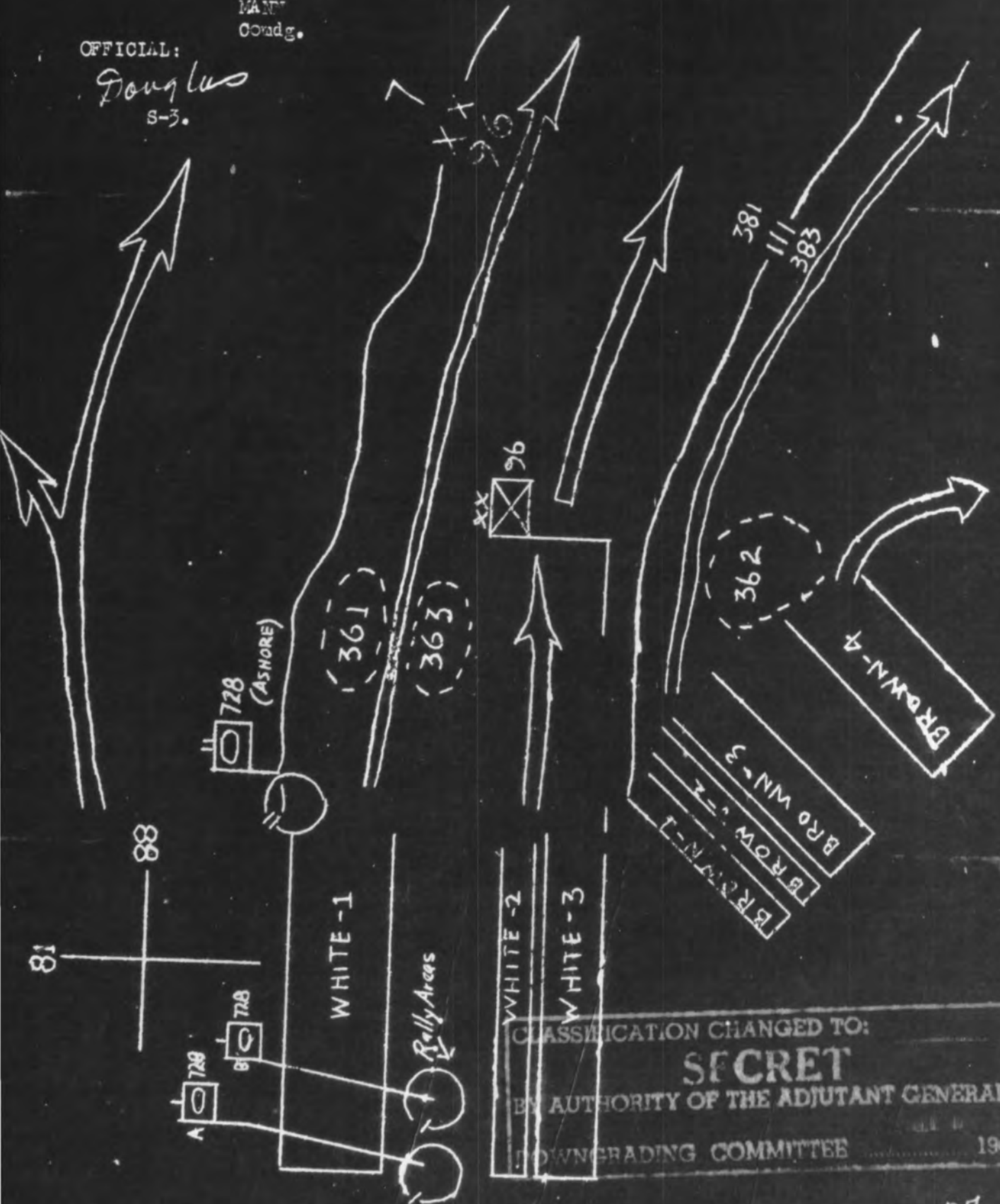
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Annex ABLE to FO 1 ABLE  
OPN OVERLAY  
RYUKTU RETTO, 1/25,000.

MAIN  
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

*Douglas*  
S-3.



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