

The Battle of Okinawa:  
Demonstrating the Need for the Atomic Bombs

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## **Introduction**

The Battle of Okinawa was fought between the dates of April 1st and June 22nd, 1945. It was at the end of World War II, when the war in Europe was almost over. The majority of the Japanese fleet had already been destroyed at the Battle of Midway. Okinawa was to be a stepping stone into an invasion, into finally forcing Japan to surrender (“Milestone to Japan”). Instead, 6 weeks after the end of the battle, two atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A week after that, Japan announced unconditional surrender. Why did Truman decide to drop the atomic bombs? One of the major factors influencing his decision was he knew that an invasion of Japan would be costly, as the Battle of Okinawa demonstrated. To save lives, he made the choice of using the ultimate weapon of mass destruction.

## **The Battle**

### *Naval Battle*

The American navy consisted of Task Force 58 and the British Pacific Fleet, with 13 carriers. They set up pickets, manned by destroyers, to give early warnings of attacks from Kyushu or Formosa. As expected, on April 6, a force of 400 planes came from Kyushu. While eventually shot down, there were 24 suicide, or kamikaze, attacks, sinking multiple ships (Appleman, et al. 97-98). The next day, a force of 40 planes from Task Force 58 attacked the largest battleship ever built, *Yamato*. They succeeded in sinking the *Yamato*, a light cruiser, and four destroyers. Kamikaze planes continued to bombard the American Navy, eventually sinking 21 ships. It was a strategy born of desperation. The Japanese lost 3,500 planes doing kamikaze attacks (Anonymous, “Kamikaze attacks”). However, it was ineffective, as the fleet continued to bring in supplies and soldiers.

### *Land Battle*

Operation Iceberg, the codename for the Battle of Okinawa, started when the Tenth Army, consisting of two Marine divisions and two Army divisions, landed on the beaches of Okinawa on April 1st, 1945 (Appleman, et al. 27-29). Opposing them was the 32nd Army, 100,000 men commanded by Lt. Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima (Hammel). Also on the island, were 470,000 Okinawans, mostly poor farmers. The island of Okinawa was originally part of the Ryukyu Kingdom, until it was annexed in 1879 by Japan (Feifer, 59-60). With little industrialization, the island was scenic and picturesque. However, that would all change once the fighting had begun.

Landing day was quiet, the Marines met with little opposition. Instead, the Japanese forces had entrenched on the southern half of the island, in rings around the town of Shuri. (Feifer, 1992). Most of the Japanese positions were underground, with numerous entrances and a man intricate system of tunnels. Widely dispersed pieces of artillery protected against American bombing. Armored flamethrowers had to be used to smoke soldiers out of caves. This made for a very difficult campaign, even with the naval and air support (Appleman, et al. 249-253). On April 24, American forces broke the first line of defense surrounding Shuri.



The Marines had to clear Okinawa cave by cave, using flamethrowers and grenades to smoke the Japanese out (Gorry)

On May 4, the Japanese tried to launch a counter-offensive, but it failed. It cost the Japanese 5,000 troops, but also killed 335 American troops (Appleman, et al. 302). Morale was down, and many felt the situation was hopeless (Yahara, 41). Finally, on May 29, Shuri castle was captured by American forces. The battle was close to over. On June 22nd, General Geiger declared the campaign over. Lt. Gen. Isamu Cho and his staff had committed suicide that morning. (Hammel; Appleman, et al. 462)

### **Cost of the Battle**

During the 82 days of the Battle of Okinawa, 11,260 American soldiers were killed, and more than 50,000 were wounded (“Okinawa Costliest of Pacific Battles”). Though the Japanese had twice as many casualties, it was still one of the largest losses that had been ever inflicted upon American forces. Along with lives, 34 ships and more than 700 planes were lost (Hammel; “Admiral Calls Okinawa Campaign 'Most Difficult' in Pacific War.”). The inhabitants of the island also suffered. More than 150,000 Okinawan civilians were killed during the battle (Hammel).

### **Influence on Dropping the Bomb**

#### *Planned: Operation Downfall*

Operation Downfall was the planned invasion of Japan. It involved the landing on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu and then seizing Tokyo, forcing unconditional surrender from the Empire of Japan. In a White House meeting on June 18, General Marshall suggested cutting off all trade to Japan and then bombing their industrial centers (Joint Chiefs of Staff, “Minutes of Meeting Held at the White House”). There would be a period of encirclement and blockade and bombing, softening up the Japanese for the main invasion force (Baldwin, “A New Phase Now Opens in the Pacific War”). According to an interview with Truman, this would necessitate the mobilization of millions of armed forces.

The Japanese, while weakened, still had some 4-5 million men under arms, along 3,000-5,000 planes, some of them rigged for kamikaze attacks (“Truman's Review of the War with Japan”; Stimson, “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb”). Kyushu itself was difficult terrain to fight on. According to Secretary of War Henry Stimson, the terrain “would be susceptible to a last ditch defense such as has been made on ... Okinawa and which of course is very much larger

than either of those two areas.” It would have been costly to invade. Okinawa veterans corroborate, saying that soldiers would hide in caves, as they did on Okinawa, and would have to be flushed out by flamethrowers (Lawrence). Victory could only be achieved by land invasion, not just bombing, but a land invasion would have been very costly and could have taken years.

In a memorandum to President Truman, former President Herbert Hoover cited a casualty estimate of 500,000 to 1 million men for the invasion. This estimate was based off of the Battle of Okinawa, as a meeting in the White House evidenced. During this meeting on June 18, Admiral Leahy, one of senior-most officers in the military, 35 percent of troops on Okinawa had been lost in casualties, and that this number could be applied to the invasion of Kyushu (Joint Chiefs of Staff). 2.7 million tons of bombs and 3 billion tons of ammunition would also have had to been used (“Milestone to Japan”). Secretary of war Stimson said, “the total U.S. military and naval force involved in this grand design was of the order of 5,000,000 men. I was informed that such operations might be expected to cost over a million casualties, to American forces alone.” Instead of this grueling campaign, two atomic bombs were used.

### *The Atomic Bombs*

On August 6, an atomic bomb was used on the city of Hiroshima, in the western part of Japan. 3 days later, another one was dropped on Nagasaki. The two bombs combined killed 200,000, some soldiers, many innocent civilians. Why? Truman thought that using the bombs was a better alternative than the otherwise needed land invasion. To Truman and his cabinet, lives were the most important aspect of the war. In a public statement on August 9th, just after Nagasaki, Truman stated, “we have used it in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans.” In a memorandum from Lieutenant

General Leslie Groves to Secretary of War Henry Stimson, he stated that the atomic bomb would be a “decisive factor in winning the present war more quickly with a saving in American lives.”

Another revealing moment came when Truman met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff on June 18. At the end of the meeting, he said the reason he called the meeting was that he had hoped of some way of “preventing an Okinawa from one end of Japan to the other.” The atomic bombs gave him that way, by forcing an unconditional surrender.”

In a article in Harper’s magazine, Stimson explained the rationale for using the atomic bombs, saying that he told Truman that the atomic bombs would be “a great new instrument for shortening the war and minimizing destruction.” The use of such a weapon would force Japan to surrender by administering a “tremendous shock which would carry convincing proof of our power to destroy the Empire. Such an effective shock would save many times the number of lives, both American and Japanese, that it would cost.”

In the months after the war, Truman responded to comments on his decision. Replying to a column by Irv Kupcinec, he wrote, “It was done to save 125,000 youngsters on the American side... from getting killed and that is what it did... I stopped the war that would have killed half a million youngsters on both sides if those bombs had not been dropped.” Truman cared about both sides of the war, and the atomic bomb, although devastating, actually saved Japanese lives. At a formal dinner, Truman made a speech about his decision, saying that “It occurred to me that a quarter of a million of the flower of our young manhood was worth a couple of Japanese cities, and I still think that they were and are.”

Though the Japanese were not informed of the atomic bomb prior to its use, they were still warned. At the Potsdam conference in Germany, the Allied leaders issued an ultimatum,

saying if Japan didn't surrender, there would be "utter devastation of the Japanese homeland."

Truman felt like that was enough of an ultimatum to justify killing civilians (Burnham)

## **Conclusion**

The Battle of Okinawa had immense casualties and introduced new tactics that would have prolonged the inevitable invasion of Japan. That invasion would have cost the US up to 1 million casualties. That figure was directly influenced by Okinawa. Truman, wanting to save as many lives as possible, decided to use two atomic bombs to force a surrender instead of going through with an invasion.

## **Conflict and Compromise in the Battle of Okinawa**

The Battle of Okinawa and the atomic bombs is a clear example of conflict, as there were two sides fighting, the US and Japan. There was also conflict in the mind of Harry Truman, as he pondered whether to use the atomic bombs. The compromise is a little more subtle in this seemingly all-out conflict. However, on closer examination, there are many compromises. One is the compromise reached in Truman's administration. There was lots of disagreement on whether the bombs should be dropped, when, and where. Some thought that the bombs should be used on a city, with prior warning, to reduce civilian casualties. No prior warning was also considered, as it would be more of a shock to the Japanese government. Others thought there should just be a military demonstration on an uninhabited island.

There was also discussion on what cities to drop it on. Groves, the head of the Manhattan project, advocated for Kyoto to be a target, since it had not been bombed by conventional methods. Stimson, on the other hand, took Kyoto off the targets list because of its cultural



importance. This was an example of conflict. Compromise also occurred, as they added Nagasaki, an important port, to the list instead. Conflict and compromise were also present in the surrender of Japan. Prime Minister Suzuki tried to negotiate a surrender, knowing Japan could not continue to fight, but army officials opposed it (US Strategic Bombing Survey). But after the nuclear bombs, they compromised on a surrender.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary:

“Admiral Calls Okinawa Campaign 'Most Difficult' in Pacific War.” New York Times, 9 December, 1945 pg. 1

<http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;96024212>

This source had good information on the losses in the navy during Okinawa. It also introduced me to the scale of the battle, with 1,200 ships engaged in the operation. I used this source to gain a better understanding of the naval operations and losses in the Battle of Okinawa.

Anonymous, "Kamikaze Fighters, 1945." History Study Center, 1945.

<http://www.historystudycenter.com/search/displayMultimediaItemById.do?QueryName=multimedia&fromPage=none&ItemID=vid574&resource=mpi>

This video clips shows Kamikaze fighters attacking US ships. The accompanying text provides context and facts on kamikaze attacks. This source was useful in understanding how devastating kamikaze attacks were, and how they could be more devastating in an actual invasion.

Assistant Chief of Staff. “Magic.” War Department, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, no. 502, 4 August 1945

<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB162/51.pdf>

This source included reports on the Japanese army’s plans to disperse fuel stocks to reduce vulnerability to bombing attacks, the text of a directive by the commander of naval forces on “Operation Homeland,” the preparations and planning to repel a U.S. invasion of Honshu, and the specific identification of army divisions located in, or moving into, Kyushu. This source illustrated how a invasion of Kyushu was expected by the Japanese and would be met with full force.

Associated Press. “Okinawa Costliest of Pacific Battles.” New York Times, 22 June 1945. Historical Newspapers,

<http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;94020308>

This source gives accurate casualty numbers for numerous battles, including Okinawa and Iwo Jima. There are also figures for the Japanese, which was useful in seeing how the Japanese casualties and American casualties relate. I used this source to get casualty numbers.

Associated Press. "President Truman's Review of the War with Japan and Forecast of Events in the Pacific." *New York Times*. 2 June 1945. Historical Newspapers.  
<http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;88237578>

This source was an interview with President Truman before the Battle of Okinawa was won. In it, he gave forecasts of what the war was to be ahead, talking about the invasion. Of course, he didn't mention the atomic bombs, as it was still a top-secret project at the time. This source was very useful for gathering information on the invasion, straight from the mouth of the Commander-in-Chief.

Baldwin, Hanson W. "A New Phase Now Opens in the Pacific War." *New York Times*, 13 May 1945. Historical Newspapers.  
<http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;313727932>

Hanson Baldwin was a military editor at the *New York Times*, winning a Pulitzer for his work. This source gave a comprehensive overview of the war and the steps ahead. It gave figures for the invasion, and detailed the operations involved.

Baldwin, Hanson W. "America at War: Victory in the Pacific." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 24, no. 1, 1954, pp. 26, History Study Center, .  
[http://gateway.proquest.com/openurl?url\\_ver=Z39.88-2004&res\\_dat=xri:ho-us&rft\\_dat=xri:ho:sup\\_image:11746:pci](http://gateway.proquest.com/openurl?url_ver=Z39.88-2004&res_dat=xri:ho-us&rft_dat=xri:ho:sup_image:11746:pci)

Hanson Baldwin was a military editor at the *New York Times*, winning a Pulitzer for his work. This source gave a comprehensive overview on Okinawa and other battles in the Pacific. I used this source to gain a knowledge of the place of Okinawa in the wider war, and how Japan was finally beaten.

Compton, Arthur B. "Memorandum on Political and Social Problems, from Members of the Metallurgical Laboratory of the University of Chicago," 12 June 1945.  
<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB162/16.pdf>

Arthur Compton was one of the key figures in the Manhattan project. This source was a memorandum from him to the Secretary of War. It discussed how the atomic bomb should be used. I used this source to see what the creators of the atomic bomb thought, and how they thought lives should be saved.

Gorry, Charles P. "Two soldiers of the 27th Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Group of the 27th Division prepare to throw grenades into caves on Okinawa Island" 16 May 1945, Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003668304/>

This source was a photo of soldiers throwing grenades into caves in which the Japanese were hiding. It illustrates the tactics necessary to force the Japanese out on such terrain.

Groves, L. R. "Memorandum for the Secretary of War." 23 April 1945. <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAE/NSAE/NSAE162/3a.pdf>

Leslie Groves was the government overseer of the Manhattan project. In this memorandum to Stimson, Groves provides a comprehensive overview of the project and how the atomic bombs were made. He also specifically says the purpose of the atomic bombs is to shorten the war, thereby saving lives.

Hoover, Herbert. "Memorandum on Ending the Japanese War." Truman Library, 30 May 1945. <https://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/exile.htm#japanese>

Herbert Hoover, a good friend of President Truman, wrote this memorandum for Truman. It tells Truman that there would be an immense number of casualties invading Japan and how Truman should try to get Japan to surrender. It was useful in seeing what information Truman received about casualties to influence him to make his decision.

Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Minutes of Meeting Held at the White House." 18 June 1945 <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAE/NSAE/NSAE162/20.pdf>

This was one of my best sources. It was the minutes of a meeting held on June 18. President Truman wanted to meet with his top military advisors to go over what to do next in the war with Japan. In this meeting, they discuss the campaign against Japan. It was helpful because they cite Okinawa specifically as a basis for their casualty numbers, which demonstrates the link between the Battle of Okinawa and the invasion of Kyushu.

Kupcinet, Irv. and Truman, Harry S., "Correspondence between Irv Kupcinet and Harry S. Truman, including draft copies of Truman's letter, July 30 and August 5, 1963, responding to Mr. Kupcinet's column in the Chicago Sun-Times about the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan." Truman Library: Post-Presidential Files.

[https://www.trumanlibrary.org/flip\\_books/index.php?pagenumber=1&titleid=236&tldate=1963-07-30&collectionid=ihow&PageID=-1&groupid=3707](https://www.trumanlibrary.org/flip_books/index.php?pagenumber=1&titleid=236&tldate=1963-07-30&collectionid=ihow&PageID=-1&groupid=3707)

This source was Truman corresponding with Irv Kupcinet about his column in the Chicago Sun-Times. He repeats what he has publicly stated before, that it was to save the lives of American soldiers. He also states that the atomic bombs also saved the lives of the Japanese, because more would probably die in an Invasion than Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Lawrence, W. H. "Japan, like Okinawa, Will Cost High Price." New York Times, 24 June 1945. Historical Newspapers,

<http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;94854661>

Written by an acclaimed war correspondent, this source was a series of observations made by soldiers on Okinawa. It emphasized the importance of terrain, such as caves, that would make the invasion more difficult. I used this source to gain a deeper understanding of what the people who actually participated in the war thought.

Marine Corps, "Marines wait at entrance to cave in which Japanese soldiers are hiding." 1945. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/94505538/>

"Milestone to Japan." New York Times, 24 June 1945. Historical Newspapers. <http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;94854641>

This source was useful in determining what Americans would have done after Okinawa. It also illustrated the importance of Okinawa in the wider war. I used this source to gain a better understanding of the significance of the battle.

Mosow, Warren. "Battle is Furious." New York Times, 13 May 1945. <http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US;PQDOC;HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;313721512>

Written in the middle of the toughest part of the Okinawa campaign, this source illustrates the struggles the Marines had to endure in order to capture the island. It gives statistics on the men and materiel used in the fighting in Okinawa.

Potsdam Conference. "Potsdam Declaration" Issued at Potsdam, 26 July 1945. <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Docs/Hiroshima/Potsdam.shtml>  
This source is the text of the declaration made by the major allied powers towards Japan, saying that if Japan didn't surrender, they would be completely destroyed. Truman later used this as an excuse for not giving the Japanese any warning, as he had already given them one in the form of this ultimatum.

Rae, Bruce. "Okinawa Fighting is Grim in South." *New York Times*, 12 April 1945, Historical Newspapers.  
<http://hn.bigchalk.com/hnweb/hn/do/document?urn=urn:proquest:US:PQDOC:HNP;PQD;HNP;PROD;x-article-image;88213285>

This article in the *New York Times* gives updates on the battle while it was still being fought. It gives descriptions on what the fighting was like, including naval and air operations. It also shows the use of suicide boats by the Japanese, which contributed to the casualty number of the Navy.

Stimson, Henry L. "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb." *Harper's Magazine*, Feb. 1947.

[http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/stimson\\_harpers.pdf](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/stimson_harpers.pdf)

Secretary of War Henry Stimson published this article in *Harper's Magazine* explaining why they chose to drop the Atomic bomb. In it he cites estimates of casualties Truman received, and a memorandum he sent to the President. This source was useful because Stimson explicitly said they did it for lives.

Stimson, Henry L. "Diary and Papers" 10 August 1945 <http://www.doug-long.com/stimsonx.htm>

Excerpts of Stimson's diaries and papers relating to the atomic bombs, compiled by historian Doug Long. It offered an insight into what happened after the surrender of the emperor and how the administration reacted.

Stimson, Henry L. "Proposed Program for Japan." Harry S. Truman Library, 2 July 1945  
<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/nukevault/ebb525-The-Atomic-Bomb-and-the-End-of-World-War-II/documents/033.pdf>

This memorandum was sent from the Secretary of War to President Truman. It gives suggestions on what to do in order to make Japan surrender. Stimson's personal opinion was that an ultimatum should be given, and hopefully, Japan would surrender, as he says that invading Japan would be long and arduous.

Truman, Harry. "Diaries and Papers." 12 April 1945.  
<http://www.doug-long.com/hst.htm>

Some papers of Harry Truman before and after the end of the war. They illustrate some interesting things, such as Truman's thoughts on the bombings, and his internal thought process regarding his monumental decision.

Truman, Harry S. "Handwritten Remarks for Gridiron Dinner." National Security Archive, circa 15 December 1945  
<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/dc.html?doc=3913572-President-Harry-S-Truman-Handwritten-Remarks-for>

This source shows the notes Truman prepared for a speech at the Gridiron Dinner. In the speech, he says that his choice was correct, because it saved the lives of many people, and that an ultimatum had already been issued, in the form of the Potsdam Declaration, so there were no moral qualms involving the nuclear bombs.

United States Strategic Bombing Survey, "The Decision for Peace", June 1946. Elsey Papers, Harry S. Truman Administration. .  
[https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1946-06-00&documentid=69&pagenumber=1](https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1946-06-00&documentid=69&pagenumber=1)

This source was an interrogation of Hisatsune Sakomizu, a government official in Japan, included in a report by the US Strategic Bombing Survey. It provided a nice insight into what happened in Japan as the war ended, and why they surrendered.

White House, "The atomic bomb and atomic energy." 6 August 1945, Ayers Papers, Subject File. Army U. S., Press releases,  
[https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1945-08-06&documentid=59&studycollectionid=abomb&pagenumber=1](https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1945-08-06&documentid=59&studycollectionid=abomb&pagenumber=1)  
This source outlines the first press release after the bombing of Hiroshima. It introduces the idea of atomic energy and the atomic bombs to the public. This source helped me understand how the atomic bomb was made, and the politics behind making it.

## Secondary:

Antill, P. "Operation Iceberg: The Assault on Okinawa - The Last Battle of World War II", 2003. [http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles\\_okinawa1.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_okinawa1.html)

This source gave very good list of combatants involved, listing every division and major weapons they used during the battle, including all of the ships. It gave me a good idea of all the personnel strength and materiel strength involved in the battle.

Appleman, Roy E, et al. "Okinawa: The Last Battle." Center of Military History, 1948. <https://history.army.mil/books/wwii/okinawa/>

Published by the US Army, this source gave a comprehensive account of the battle and how it went down, based on accounts by combat historians in the Army. It was written to give an unbiased, factual account on the battle as soon as possible. This source was very useful in seeing the proceedings of the battle, and how it was fought, as it gives day-by-day info on the battle.

Burnham, Alexander. "Okinawa, Harry Truman, and the Atomic Bomb", Virginia Quarterly Review, Summer 1995. <http://www.vqronline.org/essay/okinawa-harry-truman-and-atomic-bomb>

This source gave good reasons on why Truman dropped the atomic bombs. It also gave information into the battle itself. Written by a radio operator on a Navy ship at the time of the battle, it gave insight into the naval part of the battle.

Giangreco, D.M. "President Truman and the Atom Bomb Decision: Preventing an Okinawa from One End of Japan to Another," 1 Aug 2015.

<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/159960>

D. M. Giangreco has been an editor for the U.S. Army's professional journal, Military Review, for over twenty years. He has lectured widely on national security matters and is an award-winning author of numerous articles on military and political subjects and six books (from US Naval Institute). This source looked at why Truman thought casualties would be so high, even when modern historians disagree with Truman's given reason for dropping the bomb. Giangreco concludes that Truman, to the best of his knowledge, did the right thing.

Giangreco, D. M. "Transcript of OPERATION DOWNFALL: US PLANS AND JAPANESE COUNTER-MEASURES." US Army Command and General Staff College, 16 February 1998. <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/giangrec.htm>

A presentation by Giangreco, this source gave insight into why the US was forced to drop the atomic bombs, even though the Soviet invasion could have easily made the Japanese try to negotiate for peace. Giangreco reiterates his point of saying that the atomic bombs were necessary. This source was useful for gathering information on the motives of Truman.



Feifer, George. "Tennozan: The Battle of Okinawa, the Blood and the Bomb," 15 June 1992.

This source was very useful, as it provided a wonderful account of the battle. It shows both an overview of the battle and of the people involved on it. Feifer focuses on the civilians on Okinawa, and how they suffered needlessly. This book also explained the atomic bombs, and how soldiers on the ground reacted to it. This source was very useful for gaining insight into the Battle of Okinawa.

Feis, Herbert. "The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II" Princeton Paperback Printing, 1971.

[https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=32N9BgAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP8&dq=battle+of+okinawa+bomb&ots=Zei\\_IREOWY&sig=k6\\_\\_lw3wY3HXp5bI4QiFU5vQsBo#v=onepage&q=okinawa&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=32N9BgAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP8&dq=battle+of+okinawa+bomb&ots=Zei_IREOWY&sig=k6__lw3wY3HXp5bI4QiFU5vQsBo#v=onepage&q=okinawa&f=false)

This source gave great evidence that the Battle of Okinawa directly led to the casualty figures cited by Truman as his reason for dropping the bombs. The source itself was also useful in understanding why the Japanese surrendered and the Potsdam Conference.

Frame, Rudy R. "Okinawa: The Final Great Battle of World War II", Marine Corps Gazette Nov. 2012, <https://www.mca-marines.org/gazette/2012/11/okinawa-final-great-battle-world-war-ii>

An article published in the Marine Corps Gazette, this article details the Battle of Okinawa, and the days preceding it. I used this source to gain a better understanding of the maneuvers on Okinawa itself, and how the battle was won.

Hammel, Eric. "Battle Of Okinawa: Summary, Fact, Pictures and Casualties," HistoryNet. 12 June 2006. <http://www.historynet.com/battle-of-okinawa-operation-iceberg.htm>  
This source gave a great summary of the Battle of Okinawa itself. It also had some information on the atomic bombs. I used it to learn what happened on the island that was so difficult for the marines.

"Harry S Truman's Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb (U.S. National Park Service)." National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 25 Oct. 2017, [www.nps.gov/articles/trumanatomicbomb.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/trumanatomicbomb.htm).

This source, written by the National Park Service, analyzes the options given to Truman. In choosing between a land invasion and using the atomic bombs, this source showed that using the atomic bombs was the only choice given to Truman.

Meyerson, Adams, "Atoms for Peace," History Study Center, 2008

<http://www.historystudycenter.com/search/displayReferenceItemById.do?QueryName=reference&ItemID=h334-1985-000-33-000005&fromPage=none&resource=ref>

This source analyzed Truman's decision of dropping the atomic bombs. The author concludes that it was right for him to do so, as it saved both American and Japanese lives. I used this source to see how Truman's decision was morally correct.

Tsukiyama, Ted. "The Battle of Okinawa Revisited." Unpublished manuscript.

[http://nisei.hawaii.edu/object/io\\_1149316185200.html](http://nisei.hawaii.edu/object/io_1149316185200.html)

An unpublished manuscript by Ted Tsukiyama, this source gives a brief account of what happened on Okinawa. It also gave information on the naval and air battles surrounding the island.

Tzeng, Megan. "The Battle of Okinawa, 1945: Final Turning Point in the Pacific." *The History Teacher*, vol. 34, no. 1, 2000, pp. 95–117. JSTOR, JSTOR,.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/3054378.pdf>

This paper gives an analysis on how the Battle of Okinawa eventually led to the end of the war. I used this source to see someone else's analysis on the decision, and how the Battle of Okinawa influenced Truman.

Wainstock, Dennis D. "The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb" Praeger Publishers, 1996.

<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=yDTws6tXo9wC&oi=fnd&pg=PP7&dq=reasons+for+dropping+the+atomic+bomb+okinawa&ots=rFoa2OJ-bj&sig=tkvt4BoIkYgLOKGdioPk7f6uNxY#v=onepage&q=okinawa&f=false>

This source gives an account of the factors that influenced the decision to drop the atomic bomb, and some information on the battle itself. I used this source to examine the decision as a whole and see how the Battle of Okinawa was an important factor.

Yahara, Hiromichi. "The Battle for Okinawa." Pacific Basin Institute, 1995.

<https://archive.org/stream/battleforokinawa00yaha#page/n9/mode/2up>

Hiromichi Yahara was a Japanese officer who commanded at the Battle of Okinawa. After escaping, he was captured. His book details the going-ons inside Japanese command, as they slowly lost their men, and were defeated. This book was useful in seeing how the Japanese officers themselves were not hopeful in their prospects, seeing how the Americans had so much more.