Brief of Downfall
By: United States Army Forces, Pacific, [1945]
Report Documentation Page

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1. REPORT DATE 1945
2. REPORT TYPE N/A
3. DATES COVERED -
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Brief of Downfall
5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
5b. GRANT NUMBER
5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
5d. PROJECT NUMBER
5e. TASK NUMBER
5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) United States Army Forces, Pacific
8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
10. SPONSOR/MONITOR’S ACRONYM(S)
11. SPONSOR/MONITOR’S REPORT NUMBER(S)
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited
14. ABSTRACT
15. SUBJECT TERMS
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:
   a. REPORT unclassified
   b. ABSTRACT unclassified
   c. THIS PAGE unclassified
17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAR
18. NUMBER OF PAGES 10
19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98)
Prescribed by ANSI Std Z39-18
21 June 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, SAP GROUP:

SUBJECT: Brief of DOWNFALL.

1. Attached is a brief of DOWNFALL, which is General MacArthur's strategic plan for operations in the Japanese Archipelago. The plan deals with the broad strategic aspect and covers both OLYMPIC and CORONET.

2. General Hull has already been briefed on this plan.

3. It is recommended that this plan should be released to ANSCOL after the Kanto Plain has been secured.

MAX S. JOHNSON
Colonel, GSC
Chief, Strategy Section

Classification changed to
RESTRICTED
by authority of ____________________________
by _____________ date ____________
BRIF OF "DOWNFALL"

1. Scope.

DOWNFALL is General MacArthur's strategic plan for operations in the Japanese Archipelago. It constitutes the basis for directives for operations to force the unconditional surrender of Japan by seizure of vital objectives in the Japanese Archipelago.

The plan outlines:

a. Existing directives.

b. Assumptions concerning enemy intentions.

c. Operations.

d. Logistics.

It gives the broad outlines of Operations OLYMPIC and CORONET but does not go into details (see Map A).

2. Phases.

The plan visualizes attainment of the assigned objectives by two successive operations.

a. OLYMPIC - To advance our land-based air forces into Southern Kyushu in order to support the second, a knock-out blow to the enemy's heart in the Tokyo area.

b. CORONET - A major joint assault supported by the massed air and naval power in the Pacific to destroy hostile forces and seize the Tokyo - Yokohama Area.

c. Subsequent operations continued and extended until such organized resistance in the Japanese Archipelago ceases.

3. Enemy Forces.

OLYMPIC

3 Divs in Northern Kyushu
3 Divs in Southern Kyushu
8 to 10 Divs total enemy commitment
2,500 enemy aircraft.
21 Divs in Honshu
14 Divs employed in Kanto Plain area.
Hostile capability for air action reduced to suicide attacks
of uncertain proportions at an early phase of the operations.

4. Own Forces.

OLYMPIC
Assault - 12 Divs
Follow-up - 2 Divs (including 1 A/B Div)
Area reserve - 3 Divs
If required, divisions set up for CORONET could be used in
OLYMPIC and replaced from strategic reserve in USA.
Air Forces - see Map A.

CORONET
Assault - 14 Divs (including 2 Armored Divs).
Follow-up - 11 Divs (including 1 A/B Div)
Area reserve - 3 Divs
Strategic reserve in USA - 4 Divs per month beginning June 1946.
Air Forces - see Map A.

5. Command and Logistics.

OLYMPIC
Sixth Army
Mounted - Philippines - 9 Divs
Okinawa - 1 Div
Marianas - 1 Div
Hawaii - 3 Divs

CORONET
Eighth and Tenth Armies
Mounted - Philippines - 15 Divs
Okinawa - 4 Divs
Kyushu - 4 Divs
Marianas - 2 Divs
**LEGEND**

Seaplane Anchorage - Ramp, hauling out facilities, refueling facilities, and major repairs.
Seaplane Anchorage - Limited repair and refueling facilities.
Emergency Seaplane Anchorage - Limited or no facilities.

Maximum Run:  
- Over 2 miles
- 1 to 2 miles
- Less than 1 mile

Landing Field:  
- Refueling facilities and major repairs
- Limited repair and refueling facilities
- Limited or no facilities

Runway:  
- 4000 feet and over
- 2000 to 4000 feet
- Less than 2000 feet

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**COMMAND SET-UP**

- **JCS**
  - **COMINCH**
  - **CINCPAC** (JOINT ACTION)
  - **CINCFPAC** (SUPPORT)
  - **CG** 20th AF
  - **US Army**
  - **CG** 1st Army
  - **CG** 8th Army
  - **CG** ASF COMMAND (S)

**GARRISON AS ASSIGNED**

- **CG** 6th Army
- **CG** FEAF
- **CG USA WESPAC**
- **CG USA MIDPAC**
- **CG** 10th Army
- **CG** 1st Army
- **CG** 8th Army
- **CG** ASF COMMAND (S)

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**FORCES**

**OLYMPIC**

- 6th Army
  - 9 Divs
  - 3 Mar Divs
  - 1 Div
  - 1 A/B Div
  - 3 Divs - Assault

- 14 DIVS

**CORONET**

- AFRICAN
  - 8th Army
  - 10th Army
  - 9th Dive

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The diagram illustrates the command structure and forces involved in the operation, with specific details on facilities and runways for each location.
**CONCEPT**

**OLYMPIC**

Initial assaults seize and develop KAGOSHIMA WAN and ARIAKE WAN as ports of entry. Occupy area as far north as general line TSUNO - SENDAI.

**CORONET**

Initially establish local air support and drive into KANTO PLAIN from outlying beaches while defences of approaches to TOKYO-WAN and Northern SAGAMI BAY are reduced by intensive naval and air action. Then occupation of TOKYO-YOKOHAMA area and rest of KANTO PLAIN.

**NOTE**

1. In event commitment for DOWNFALL exceeds forces projected, build-up of 4 divs per month from USA begins June 1946.
2. Air Redeployments:
   - 1 Nov 45 - 1 Jun 46 - 47 Gps
3. Ultimate VHB Garrisons:
   - Marianas - 20 Gps
   - Ryukyus - 12 Gps