

# Patriot Project

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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

## **Battle of Okinawa**

**Paulette Boggs & Robert Heath**

The Battle of Okinawa was the largest amphibious invasion of the Pacific and the last major campaign of the Pacific War. The battle proved to be the bloodiest battle of the Pacific. More ships were used, more troops put ashore, more supplies transported, more bombs dropped, more naval guns fired against shore targets than any other operation in the Pacific. More people died during the Battle of Okinawa than all those killed during the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Casualties totaled more than 38,000 Americans wounded and 12,000 killed or missing, more than 107,000 Japanese and Okinawan conscripts killed, and perhaps 100,000 Okinawan civilians killed.

As a result of this battle, the US established Kadina Air Force Base on Okinawa. This base continues to be an important asset for military operations in the Far East.

### **Key Figures**

Mitsuru Ushijima	Imperial Japanese General
Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr.	American Lieutenant-General

### **Quote from Commander Fredrick Julian Benton, USN Commanding Officer, USS Laffey:**

“The action had lasted for an hour and 20 minutes. We had been attacked by 22 planes, 9 of which we shot down unassisted, 8 planes had struck the ship, 7 of them with suicidal intent.”

### **Sources**

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/okinawa-battle.htm>

<http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/okinawa/>  
<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/battleofokinawa.htm>  
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