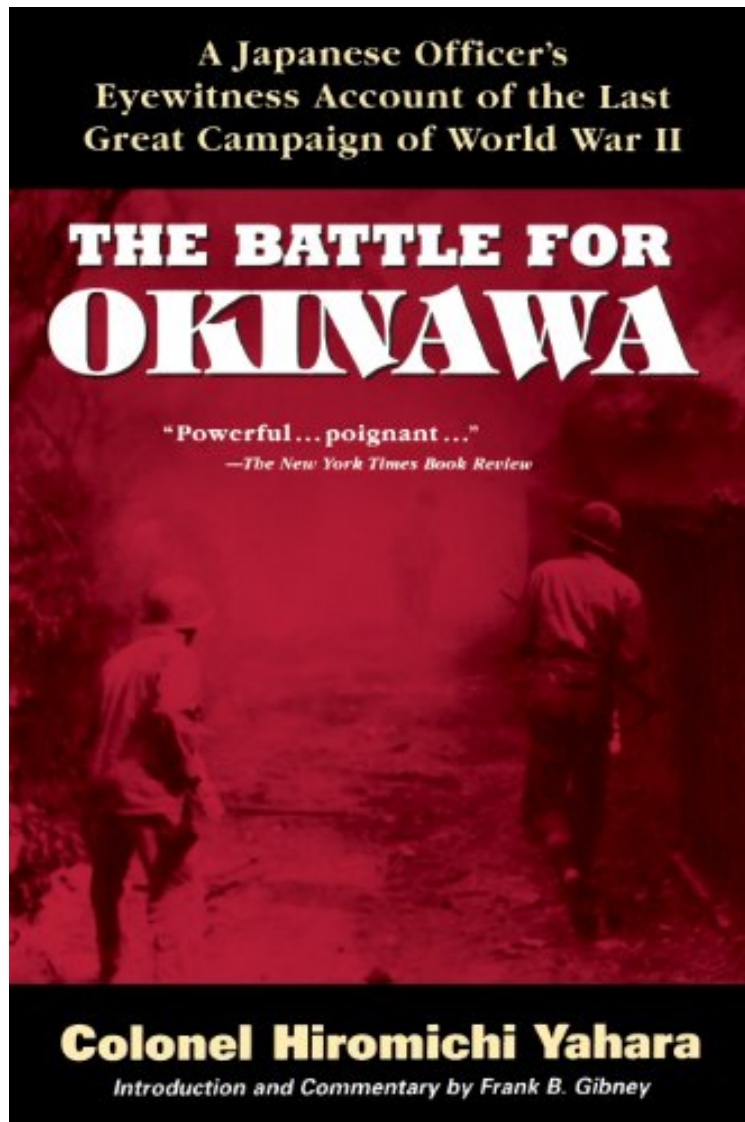


The Battle for Okinawa

Von Colonel Hiromichi Yahara
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Von Colonel Hiromichi Yahara : The Battle for Okinawa before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Battle for Okinawa:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A japanese account of OkinawaVon Peter ClarkeThere is no doubt that the Japanese have a completely different mindset to their western counterparts. Take the last message from Major General Suzuki "Flowers dying gracefully on Hill 109, Will bloom again amid the Kudan trees". The Japanese not only knew how to fight, but they knew how to die.

This book is written from the perspective of a Japanese Staff Officer and gives an excellent overview of the Japanese tactics. When you consider the overwhelming logistic and technological superiority of the American forces it's amazing that the Japanese gave such a good account of themselves. Yahara's account gives an insight into why we must all hope like hell that they're on our side next time. This is a fascinating book, a necessary counterpoint to those of the victors - if you're at all interested in military history, this is a must have book!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent assessment from the other side! Von Stephen McClary Having never had access to anything but the "western" accounts of the Battle for Okinawa, I found that Yahara presented a splendid account from the other side's point of view. Chillingly accurate were his predictions and sadly detailed were the final events before the fall of the Japanese 32nd Army. Having spent more than 2 years in the United States, in the 1930's as an exchange officer, Colonel Yahara knew how the American military leaders thought and was privy to some of the strategies and general American military principles. Unfortunately for the Imperial Army, Yahara's expertise and gut hunches were mostly brushed aside and the Samurai mentality of offensive warfare prevailed. Only after senior commanders, LtGen Ushijima and LtGen Cho realized that they were fighting a hopeless losing battle was Yahara finally given the reins - but it was too late. The 32nd Army had already lost too many troops and too much equipment. Imperial Headquarters in Tokyo, for reasons that are still arguable to this day, offered little more than pats on the back and lips service in the name of the mighty Empire. Soon after Colonel Yahara was given authority to call the shots, it strikes me that his mission became two-fold: Hold off defeat for as long as possible in order to delay invasion of the homeland (mainland Japan) and, two, on a personal note, how to survive after the fall of Okinawa into American hands. He understood how foolish was the Japanese propaganda telling of how Japanese would be treated if they were taken prisoner. I think that, in writing this book Colonel Yahara truly wanted to set the record straight but he had another motive - to relieve himself of the guilt and the condemnation of his peers that he felt as a result of surviving the campaign when his commanders had ended their fate in traditional seppuku - the taking of their own lives. I also believe that Yahara saw the writing as a way to let the Japanese people know that he was loyal, intelligent and not a disgrace to his country. It is interesting to note that the book was first published and released in Japan in 1973. Not until the past decade have the school children of Japan been taught about the Okinawa Battle. Even the Okinawan children had long been deprived of our side of the story. The book should serve well to help the young Okinawans to understand why their land and their people were so clearly abused and wasted! Well written and fairly well validated by editorial counter-point provided by Gibney. Any fan of the Pacific War owes it to himself to read this book!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A JAPANESE VIEW OF MASSIVE U.S. INVASION Von Ein Kunde In this book, Col. Yahara is a senior staff officer of the Japanese Army defending Okinawa, and he describes the invasion and assault by the overpowering American forces, as well as his strategy to prevent rapid defeat, which already was a given. This book is quite good, in that: 1) it presents the view of the besieged Japanese; 2) it is fast moving and gripping; 3) and it presents many of those "little facts" that are missing in history books, such as: how was it in the caves, what did they eat, how did they escape, did they do stupid things, what did they think of the Americans, what was it like to be around so many dead Japanese bodies, what was it like to be captured, were there Japanese POW's and how did they react; did they help the American M.P.'s. - This book is quite good and easy to read, plus has plenty of historical detail and maps. (The maps are hard to read though...) But overall, the book has value to the reader of light material as well as to the student of the Pacific War. - NOTE: the first page of Yahara's account is spellbinding: the Japanese Army hiding in caves up in the mountains, with Yahara looking down and reflecting at the hundreds of gray American Navy ships offshore, and the Marines pouring ashore completely uncontested. It's almost like reading the glorious acceptance of death in Yahara's mind; a strong impression of an inevitable death sentence which the Japanese defenders accepted unhesitatingly and proudly.

Kurzbeschreibung Critical acclaim for The Battle for Okinawa "An indispensable account of the fighting and of Okinawa's role in the Japanese defense of the home islands." --The Wall Street Journal "A fascinating, highly intelligent glance behind the Japanese lines." --Kirkus "The most interesting of the 'last battle of the war' books." --The Washington Post "A fascinating insider's view of the Japanese command." --Dallas Morning News COLONEL HIROMICHI YAHARA was the senior staff officer of the 32nd Japanese Army at Okinawa. A Military Book Club Main Selection Kurzbeschreibung Critical acclaim for The Battle for Okinawa "An indispensable account of the fighting and of Okinawa's role in the Japanese defense of the home islands." --The Wall Street Journal "A fascinating, highly intelligent glance behind the Japanese lines." --Kirkus "The most interesting of the 'last battle of the war' books." --The Washington Post "A fascinating insider's view of the Japanese command." --Dallas Morning News COLONEL HIROMICHI YAHARA was the senior staff officer of the 32nd Japanese Army at Okinawa. A Military Book Club Main Selection Synopsis "Powerful...poignant." -The New York Times Book Now in Paper! This critically acclaimed first-hand account vividly recounts one of the bloodiest encounters in the war in the Pacific from the point of view of the Japanese strategist who designed and carried out the campaign. A main selection of the Military Book Club and

cited by the Washington Post as one of the best WWII books of 1995, *The Battle for Okinawa* provides rare insight into the mind of the Japanese military. HIROMICHI YAHARA was the senior staff officer of the 32nd Japanese Army at Okinawa. FRANK GIBNEY (Santa Barbara, California) is president of the Pacific Basin Institute. He is the author of *Japan: The Fragile Super-Power* and *The Pacific Century*.