



# WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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## OCCUPATION OF JAPAN 1945-1950

Following the defeat of the Japanese on Luzon, the soldiers of the 25<sup>th</sup> Division gathered in central Luzon in preparation for the invasion of Japan. As part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Army, I Corps, the Division was to land in the vicinity of Miyazaki on the southeastern coast of Japan on 1 November 1945.

Even as plans for the invasion of Japan were being finalized, the plan for the occupation of Japan were well underway. Following the bombing of Nagasaki and the declaration of war by Russia against Japan, the occupation plans were accelerated. With logistical plans already in place for the invasion, those plans were quickly modified to transport occupying forces and supplies.

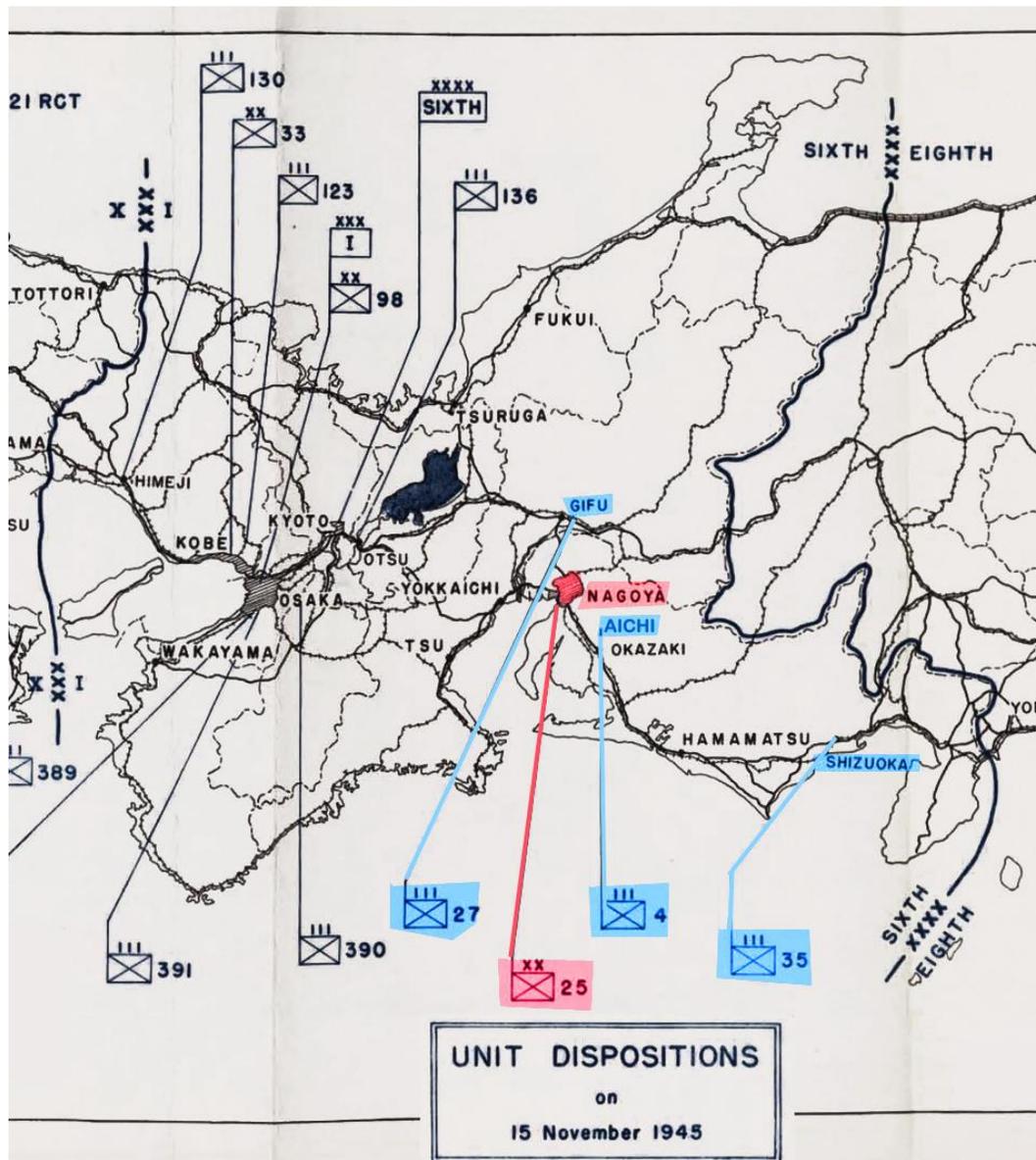


Gen. Douglas MacArthur signing the agreement by which Japan surrendered to Allied forces—thereby ending World War II—on the USS *Missouri* battleship in Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945. Standing behind MacArthur are U.S. Lieut. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright (left) and British Lieut. Gen. Arthur Percival. Lt. C. F. Wheeler—Navy/U.S. Department of Defense

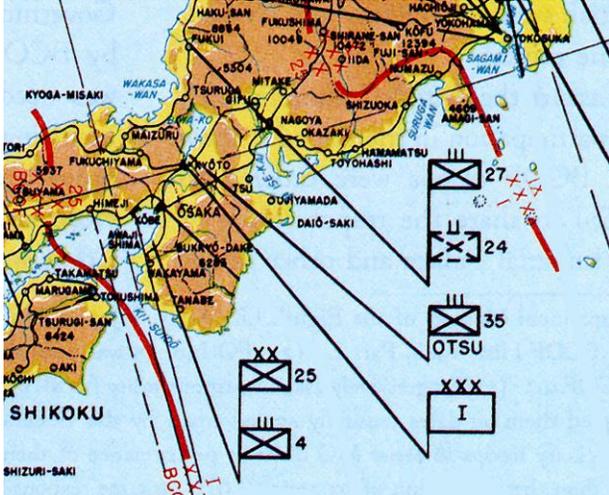
Plans for the occupation of Japan were continuously being modified well before they were put into effect. The situation in Japan was largely unknown as to how the populace would react to occupying forces. Thus, a large US force was envisioned to maintain control and enforce the provisions of the surrender.

Headquarters I Corps and the 33d Infantry Division departed from Lingayen Gulf for Makayama on 19 September. Meanwhile, on 18 September, the 25<sup>th</sup> Division reported an epidemic resulting from pulmonary disease of unknown character in the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and had requested permission to leave that unit in the staging area until the epidemic subsided. While this request was granted, danger disappeared, and the Regiment loaded out on schedule. Occupation plans called for the 25<sup>th</sup> Division to land at Nagoya, Japan on 2 October 1945. However, the Division fell victim to delays caused by typhoons and the difficulty in clearing mines from the harbor at Nagoya. After a month on the water, the 25<sup>th</sup> Division finally landed on 25 October 1945.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the 161<sup>st</sup> Infantry (later re-designated the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry) and the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry landed in that order. The division had three prefectures in its area of responsibility. A prefecture would be roughly equivalent to a county in a US state. The 27<sup>th</sup> was assigned the Gifu; the 161<sup>st</sup> the Aichi and the 35<sup>th</sup> to Shizuoka. All Regiments were in place and assumed control of their respective area by 10 November.



In September 1945, General Douglas MacArthur took charge of the Supreme Command of Allied Powers (SCAP) and began the work of rebuilding Japan. In addition to starting war crimes trials to punish Japan's aggression, a number of reforms were dictated to the Japanese government. In the economic field, SCAP introduced land reform, designed to benefit the majority tenant farmers and reduce the power of rich landowners, many of whom had advocated for war and supported Japanese expansionism in the 1930s. MacArthur also tried to break up the large Japanese business conglomerates, or zaibatsu, as part of the effort to transform the economy into a free market capitalist system.



To the surprise of many, the Japanese responded positively to the even-handedness and friendliness of the occupying US forces. It wasn't long before MacArthur was recommending for a large troop reduction. While taking criticism in the press for this stance, MacArthur nevertheless began the reduction and the reorganization of US troop areas.

In January of 1946 the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry was transferred to Otsu in the interior of Japan. She would stay at that location until war broke out in Korea.

The following photos are from the Joseph John Ransdell collection as provided by his grandson Mathew Ransdell. The photos appear to be from the Camp Otsu area, in central Japan. Most photos are uncaptioned, so any further information is appreciated.



Joseph John Ransdell



"Albert"



Captioned "2A" this appears to be at Camp Otsu, Japan



"B Company, 35th Infantry"

