

**Note: Royal Navy Task Force 57 for Operation Iceberg – Okinawa 1945**  
v.1.0 November 29, 2006

*Mandeep Singh Bajwa*

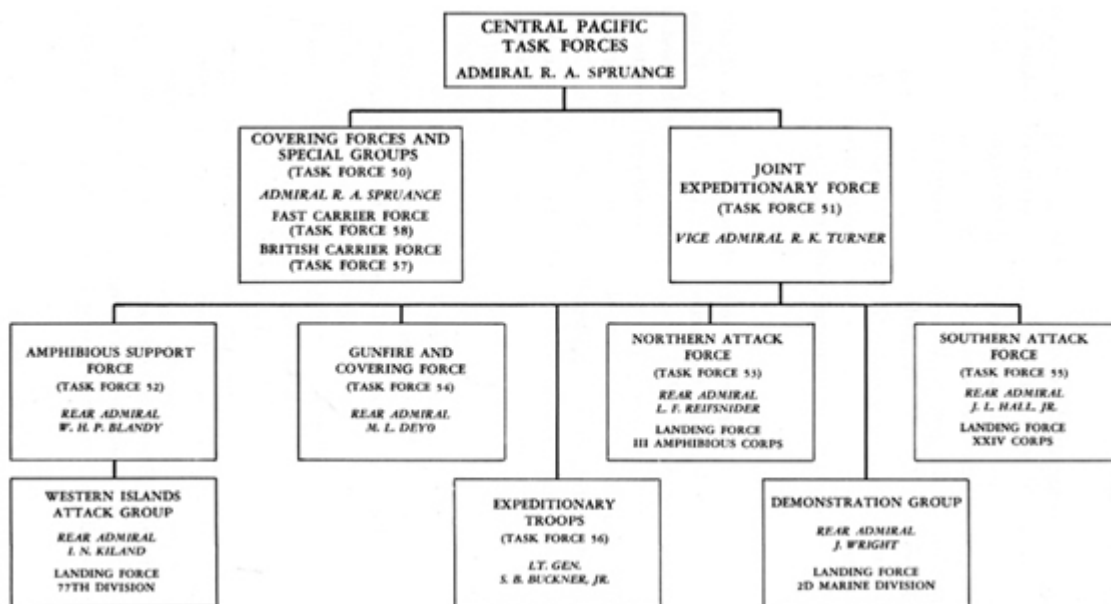
Details of TF 57's operations can be found at  
<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/UK/LondonGazette/38308.pdf>

It must be kept in mind that the operation, requiring the TF to be at sea for 30 days at a time, was a tremendous undertaking for the Royal Navy. Given the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, the USN was used to operating for 60 days without putting into a port. The RN, however, relied on a dense network of bases obtained and built during 350 years of sea superiority and then sea supremacy that covered every part of the world except the Pacific.

Given the gargantuan size of US fleets – a natural concomitant of the US's economic size, possessing a GNP greater by far than the rest of the world combined – the RN's contribution seems a mere coda. Nonetheless, considering that British global commitments and 5 ½ years of war had already stretched the RN to the very maximum possible, however symbolic, TF 57 was a gallant contribution and expression of solidarity with its much more powerful ally.

Organization Chart showing position of Royal Navy's Carrier Force (TF 57) within US Central Pacific Task Forces.

*Organizations of Central Pacific Task Forces for the Ryukyus Campaign, January 1945*



<http://www.army.mil/CMH/books/wwii/okinawa/chapter1.htm>

1st Battle Squadron  
King George V (Flag), Howe

1st Aircraft Carrier Squadron  
Indomitable (Flag), Victorious, Illustrious,  
Indefatigable

4th Cruiser Squadron  
Swiftsure (Flag), Gambia, Black Prince, Argonaut

Destroyers

Euryalus (Flag)

25th Flotilla  
Grenville, Ulster, Undine, Urania, Undaunted

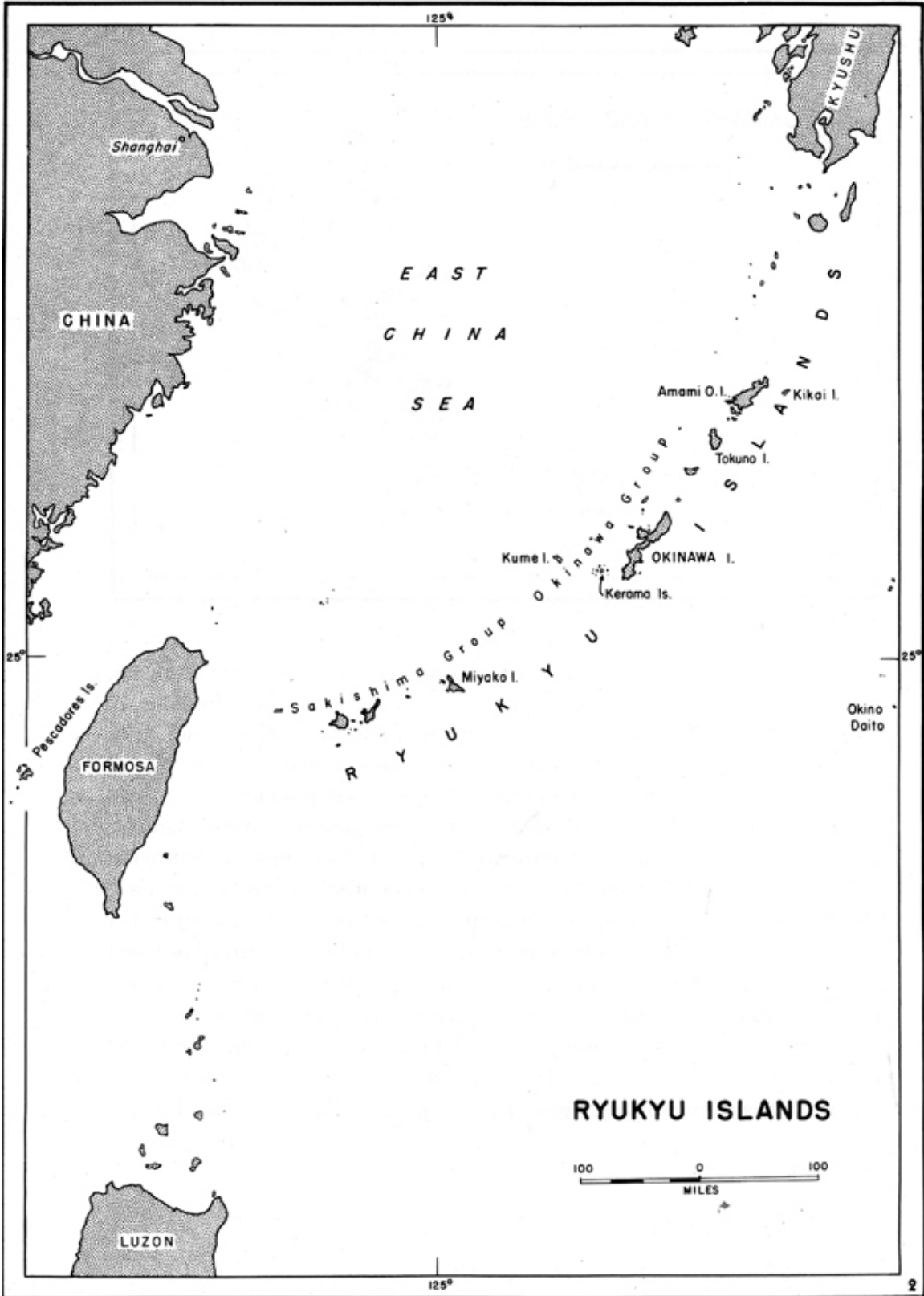
4th Flotilla  
Quickmatch, Quiberon, Queenborough, Quality

27th Flotilla  
Whelp, Wager

Airgroups

Indomitable - 29 Hellcates, 15 Avengers  
Victorious - 37 Corsairs, 14 Avengers, 2 Walrus  
Illustrious - 36 Corsairs, 16 Avengers  
Indefatigable - 40 Seafires, 20 Avengers, 9 Fireflies

Additionally. Whirlwind and Wessex were escorting tankers with TF 112, one of the logistic formations.



<http://www.army.mil/CMH/books/wwii/okinawa/chapter1.htm>