

History 225
Re: Notes w/ Mitchell essay
page two

CTF

First Manassas.

The Three days of Gettysburg costs both sides 50,000 casualties.

Twice as many casualties as the US suffered in D-Day plus the first 10 to 20 days.

The same amount of casualties, 50,000, that the US suffered in three months of fighting to take the island of Okinawa in the summer of 1945. For the forces involved the battle for Okinawa was the bloodiest in WW II for American forces.

And yet by comparison, these were fewer casualties than Grant's Army of the Potomac experienced during May-June 1864--Wilderness, Spotsylvania to Cold Harbor. Seven weeks of combat.

Its important to remember that while US marines and the American Tenth Army was facing the most fierce resistance by The Japanese defenders in the Pacific war, the new president Harry Truman was being sworn into office after the sudden death of FDR. The campaign for Okinawa convinced the new president that he did not want another Okinawa, as he put it to the JCS, "fron one end of Japan to another." The American people would not tolerate these kind of loses in bring the war in the Pacific to an end.

It was at this time that the Truman administration began the debate about how to bring this war to an end, and quickly. The trump card that was in the works--if it worked--was the Atomic Bomb.