

96th Infantry Division Okinawa Battle Heritage Exhibit Dedicated June 14, 2003



Banner on Fort Douglas Military Museum, Salt Lake City, Utah



Okinawa Landing Map and Explanatory Panel

THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA, APRIL-JUNE 1945

The 96th Infantry Division was activated on 15 August 1942 at Camp Adair, Oregon, and was supported during its training by the IX Service Command headquartered at Fort Douglas, Utah. The 96th was a "draftee division" of citizen soldiers; very few of its officers were regulars and even fewer of its enlisted men had military experience before Pearl Harbor. After achieving excellent training evaluations the "Deadeyes" of the 96th received amphibious assault training in California and Hawaii and then took part in the return to the Philippines. Between 20 October 1944 and January 1945, the Division helped liberate Leyte Island as part of XXIV U.S. Army Corps. XXIV Corps was then assigned to Tenth U.S. Army for the invasion of the Ryukyu Islands, including the main island of Okinawa. The exhibit you are about to see documents the achievements and sacrifices of the Deadeyes on Okinawa between 1 April and 30 June 1945. On 10 January 2001, the 96th Infantry Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions on Okinawa, becoming one of only four U.S. Army divisions to be so awarded in its entirety. Today the 96th Regional Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, headquartered at Fort Douglas, Utah, carries on the lineage, honors, and tradition of service of the Deadeyes of World War II.

This exhibit is sponsored by the members of
The 96th Infantry Division Association.



Japanese Last Stand Map on Yaeju Dake (Big Apple) and Yuza Dake