

ATS Z24 Men of Stone – ATS Conversion 05/03/2009



TANABARU, OKINAWA, 4 May 1945: The emperor's birthday had come and gone, and with it, much of the 32nd Army's hope for salvation on Okinawa. After a month of pounding from the Americans, no significant reinforcements had arrived, despite many promises. But day after day, they negated the incredible material wealth of the American attack with steadfast personal sacrifice. Still, many of attack-obsessed Japanese officers began to chafe at the cave and-bunker strategy, despite its obvious success in exacting heavy penalties from a superior enemy force. And the hotheads finally got their way, extracting from Ushijima and his master strategist Yahara a promise for a grand counterattack. Passion for action and romantic self-sacrifice won out over rational economy of force and the carefully-husbanded Japanese 27th Tank Regiment and artillery was committed to support the infantry of the 24th Division as they emerged from their tunnels and bunkers to fight "above ground" for the first time in the Okinawa campaign. Elaborate measures taken to conceal the mustering of the assault troops were largely successful, but as soon as the Japanese artillery began to hammer away before dawn, the Americans were alerted that something was up. And the slaughter began. Although the Japanese had dished out their heaviest bombardment of the war, the well dug-in Americans took few casualties, and responded with their usual incredible volume of air land and sea bombardment. Only in Ito's sector did the Japanese avoid annihilation. The Iron Captain took his 1st Battalion not only into the Army lines facing them, but beyond, forging a tiny breakthrough that actually reached its first day objectives. Reaching the Tanabaru escarpment that the Japanese had lost almost two weeks before, he signaled his success with a flare. But no one would be joining his advance, as the rest of the offensive was a disastrous failure, with even the bombardment causing less damage to the Americans than hoped, as it found them in entrenchments, rather than out in the open on the attack. Still, with no heavy weapons and no support, Ito's men destroyed many tanks and aircraft and caused heavy casualties among the Army units facing them. And their minor victory suggested what the Japanese might have done if properly led and equipped. On May 7, Ito and his survivors slinked back to their own lines. ASL Design Kurt Martin



Elements of the 4th Battalion, 17th Regiment Set up first on board 18 including half hexes shared with board 13.

6 5 6	1 1 7	MMG 1917	LMG 1919	LMtr 60D	M4A2	Foxhole
7	2	1	3	2	1	9



Elements of 1 Battalion, 56th Regiment, 24th Division set up in any board 15 hexes.

4 4 9	1 1 *	1 1 9	MMG M92	LMG M99	LMtr 50D	Satchel Charge	H How Type 92
12	2	3	2	3	2	2	1

VICTORY CONDITIONS

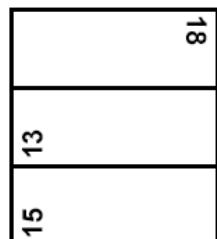
The Japanese win at the end of any Game Turn when they have the only non broken/surrendered units on the 18J2 hill, providing they have lost less than 27 Casualty Victory Points.

TURN RECORD MARKER

1	2	3	4	5	6
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MAP LAYOUT

Only hex rows R-GG on boards 13 and 15 and A-P on 18 are in play



BALANCE

Exchange one Japanese MMG M92 for an MMG M93
Add one 117 to US OB