

**Japanese Forces
Saipan
15 June 1944**

31st Army Headquarters: Lt. General Hideyoshi Obata (1,100 men)
Northern Marianas Army Group and 43rd Division (combined)
Headquarters: Lt. General Saito (268 men)

43rd Division

118th Infantry Regiment: Colonel Ito (2,605 men)
Three battalions &* 3 artillery batteries, plus
regimental engineering, communications, medical and
supply cos. Arrived in first week of June 1944)
135th Infantry Regiment: Colonel Suzuki (2,220 men)
2 Battalions & 2 artillery batteries, plus regimental
engineering, supply, and medical cos. The
1st Battalion was on Tinian.
136th Infantry Regiment: Colonel Ogawa (3,650 men)
3 battalions & 3 artillery batteries, plus
regimental engineering, comms, supply and medical cos
43rd Division Ordnance Company: Captian Murase (99 men)
43rd Division Communications Company: Captain Washizu (223 men)
43rd Division Transportation Company: Captain Yamamoto (94 men)
43rd Division Field Hospital: Lt. Colonel Fukayama (500)
246 of the personnel were shipped to Pagan on 5/21/44)
43rd Division Intendance Battalion: Lt. Colonel Okawa (2,500 men)
Only 120 of these were army personnel, the rest were
civilian laborers and technicians.

47th Brigade:

47th Independent Mixed Brigade Headquarters: Colonel Oka (227 men)
The 335th Independent Infantry Bn went to Pagan just
before the invasion
316th Independent Infantry Battalion: Captain Eto (618 men)
3 infantry, 1 machinegun and 1 infantry support gun company
317th Independent Infantry Battalion: Captain Sasaki (618 men)
3 infantry, 1 machinegun and 1 infantry support gun company
1/,3/3rd Independent Mountain Artillery Regiment: Lt. Col. Nakashima
(845 men)
2nd Bn detached, each battalion had three 4 gun batteries
3/10th Field Artillery Regiment: Captain Yamane (323 men)
1 Battery of 8 field guns, 2 batteries of 7 howitzers each
3rd Company, 25th Engineer Regiment: 1st Lt. Yoneya (188 men)

Independent Units

9th Tank Regiment: Colonel Goto (550 men)
5 tank companies & 1 mainteance company. Each tank co had
10 medium tanks and one or more light tanks and one tankette.
1/18th Infantry Regiment: Captain Kubo (600 men)
25th Anti-Aircraft Regiment: Lt. Colonel Hiiho (600 men)
(2nd Bn HQ, & 3rd, 4th, 5th & 9th Btrys detached)
AA guns and searchlights
43rd Independent Anti-Aircraft Battery: 1st Lt. Kimishima (150 men)
44th Field Machine Cannon Battery: 1st Lt. Nagatani (150 men)

7th Independent Engineers Regiment: Colonel Koganezawa (600 men)
(2nd Co detached to Guam) Two companies & ordnance and
material platoon. Also known as Army Fortification Regiment.
16th Shipping engineers Regiment: Major Tsunegana (600)
(2nd Co & small detachment were detached to Guan and Pagan)
2 Companies
264th Independent Vehicle Company: Captain Iwama
278th Independent Vehicle Company: Captain Arima

Miscellaneous Army Straggler Units

9th Expeditionary Force (908 men)
11th Independent Engineer Regiment (200 men)
150th Infantry Regiment (300 men)
14th Independent Mortar Battalion (580 men)
17th Independent Mortar Battalion (580 men)
3rd & 4th Independent Tank Companies (118 men)
(suffered heavily from a submarine attack and survivors were
combined into a single company)

Navy Units

Central Pacific Fleet Headquarters & 5th Special Base Force HQ (combined): Vice
Admiral Chuichi Nagumo (502 men)

55th Naval Guard Force: Captain Takashima (2,000 men)
1st Yokosuka Special Landing Force: LCDR Karashima (800)
3 rifle companies, battalions, gun, demolition, demolition,
supply, transport, engineer sections, medical and
intendance units
5th Communications Unit: LCDR Miyazaki (369 men)
5th Construction Unit: Rear Admiral Tsujimura (456 men)
41st Naval Guard Force (Sasebo Keibitai) (400 men)
A reinforcement destined for Truk, not a complete unit
Office of Supplies, Accounts - Paymaster Commander Mihara (45 men)
Military Stores: CDR Mizumoto (100 men)
14th Air Group (strength unknown, very small remnants of formation)
902nd Air Group (strength unknown, very small remnants of formation)
Air Flight U 156 (300 men)
Southeast Area Air Base: Vice Admiral Sato (500 men)
Aerology Bureau Saipan: Captain Yamaga (88 men)
115th Aerodrome Construction Unit (269 men)
23rd Aerodrome Construction Unit (392 men)
14th Hanger Maintenance Section (29 men)
14th Anti-Aircraft Maintenance Section (110 men)
Tora Construction Battalion (air maintenance) (600 men)

Hoffman, C., W., Saipan: The beginning of the End, Historical Section
Division of Public Information, Headquarters, USMC, 1950.

Copyright GFN 1992.