The Kamikaze Campaign 1944–45

In the spring of 1945, as the war against Japan drew to a close, the Japanese military devised a desperate plan to disrupt the Allied advance: the Kamikaze, or divine wind, attacks. This strategy was a response to the American invasion of Okinawa in April 1945, which led to the destruction of many Japanese airfields and the loss of heavy naval forces. The Kamikaze campaign aimed to cause severe damage to the US fleet and挫伤美国决心 enough to lead to a negotiated settlement. Extraordinary measures seemed necessary, and the most extraordinary was the formation of Special Attack Units—known to the Allies as kamikazes. The concept of organized suicide squadrons was first raised on June 15, 1944. By August, formations were being trained.

These kamikazes were first used in the October 1944 US invasion of the Philippine Islands, where they offered some tactical success. The program was expanded into a major campaign over the rest of the Pacific War, seeing a crescendo during the struggle for Okinawa in April through May 1945. This highly illustrated history examines not just the horrific missions and tactics of the kamikazes, but the decisions before the kamikaze campaign, how it developed, and how it came to be a key part of the Japanese strategy. Although the attacks struck on an almost ad hoc basis, the kamikaze soon became a major Japanese policy. By the end of the war, Japan was using manufacturing aircraft specifically for kamikaze missions, including a rocket-powered missile. A plane for a massive use of kamikazes to defend the Japanese Home Islands from invasion was developed, but never executed because of Japan's surrender in August 1945. Packed with diagrams, maps, and 36 reconstructions of the attacks, this book also assesses the Allied military techniques and strategies and the reasons and the degree to which the kamikazes succeeded.

Billboard 1944-11-18 In its 114th year, Billboard remains the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events, brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends.

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