



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
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(858) 551-8500
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(Second World War - Okinawa) TOP SECRET | Western Okinawa Beaches

Stock#: 63211mb
Map Maker: ComPhibGroup 12 & PhibsPac
Intelligence
Date: 1945 (February 1)
Place: n.p.
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 22.5 inches (each sheet)
Price: SOLD



Description:

A Complete Set of TOP SECRET Landing Maps For Okinawa Produced in the Lead Up to the Invasion.

Six color-printed sheets (of six, i.e., complete), showing all of the American landing beaches on Okinawa.

Each sheet is composed of ten frames: the central frame shows a map of the landing beach and interior, labeling and delineating the beach sections (e.g., Black 1, Black 2, Black 3, etc.) and providing the width in yards of each beach section; at the top of the sheet, is an isometric view of the beach, which provides a more intuitive understanding of the topography and vegetation, and which possibly could also be used for visual navigation by pilots engaged in close air support; on the left of the sheet are three frames that function as keymaps, showing the map and view in the context of the rest of the beaches; on the right side is the title, which includes names of the beaches covered, the right side also has three legends, one for the standard map elements, one for beach markings, and one for defensive symbols (not printed here).

One of the noteworthy features of the map is the omnipresent Okinawan burial vaults (or so-called turtleback tombs) - these were clearly of some strategic interest, as masonry and earth structures, they could be reinforced into machine-gun nests and bunkers.

Rarity

We have seen a handful of single sheets from the six-sheet set trading in the market separately -- including a sheet which sold on eBay in 2017 for \$400 -- however when tracing institutional copies, we can locate only the British Library's record for a set they title "Okinawa, Shima, western beaches, preliminary beach sketch..." Though the BL's set is doubtless related to the current maps, they are evidently not exactly the



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same. Thus this set is the only complete set that we have found.

Detailed Condition:

Previously stapled together with one staple at the top edge. The staple was somewhat rusted (leaving very minor residue on the paper) and is no longer present.