

with my stationary box as a support as I scratch out a brief outline of our particular phase of this - the nearest "stab" at the heart of Japan.

Our task force went into action on March 26<sup>th</sup> - landing troops on Kerama Retto. In reaching our objective, we traveled 1,000 miles without being detected by Jap air or sub patrols.

When our troops stormed the beaches of these strategic islands, 35 miles SW of Okinawa, the landings were made with complete element of surprise. Both the Nipponese islanders and Jap garrison forces scattered to the hills.

Within 48 hours, our objective was occupied, PW's <sup>were</sup> rounded up and word was flashed back that Kerama Retto was secured. Our casualties were small; might even be described as light, because of lack of organized

opposition!