

On 19 March 45 the battalion received warning orders to be prepared for movement to secret destination. The following day "A" and "B" Companies were relieved of duties involving the unloading of ships in Lingayen Gulf under the direction of Base "W", and returned to Dagupan bivouac area to stage for the impending move. Same day 3rd Plat "A" Company at Marivales Bataan embarked on LCT's for the return to the battalion bivouac area at Dagupan.

On 20 March 45 orders were received from CG Sixth Army for the battalion to move from Lingayen Gulf to Morotai on Liberty shipping to be furnished about 21 March 45. Upon arrival at Morotai the battalion was to pass to GOC 1st Australian Corp for operational control.

The battalion moved to White Beach, San Fabian on 24 March 45 and commenced loading on the two liberty ships provided. Shipping provided for the move is in sufficient and necessitates the battalion leaving a rear echelon at Lingayen Gulf. The rear echelon consists of 3rd Plat "A" Company, Headquarters section of Hqs and Service Company, and six LVT's and crews of Company "B". An advanced party of two officers left on 24 March 45 by airplane for Morotai.

Pursuant to instructions in USAFFE letter (163) dated 22 March 45 this battalion is relieved from assignment to Sixth Army and assigned to Eighth Army (Unit will be under operational control of the 1st Australian Corp)

The battalion (less rear echelon) left Lingayen Gulf on 27 March 45. After an eight day trip the battalion arrived at Morotai. On 24 March 45, Battalion Commander, Lt. Col Frank R. McLavy is transferred to Hqs 13th Armored Group. Major Howard A. Mahurin assumed command of the battalion.

Due to the shortage of transportation Corp personnel the battalion layed in Morotai harbor for five days. It was then decided to have battalion personnel handle ships gear and do our own unloading. On 13 April 45 the unloading was completed without mishap.

The battalion set up in bivouac and started performing maintenance in preparation for the Obos I operation. The maintenance was considerable because wear and tear suffered after weeks of unloading ships at Lingayen Gulf.

Liaison was established with the 9th Aust Division and on the provisional company formed from personnel of "A" and "B" Companies was attached to the 26th Aust Inf Bde. LVT's were driven to the 2/ Aust Inf Bn area where the Australian assault troops, to be transported by LVT's, were oriented on the vehicles performance and capabilities. The battalion also dispatched a gunnery team to the 2/ Australian battalion for instruction on vehicle weapons which are to be manned by their troops. On 17 April 45 Battalion Field Order No. 1 was issued and troops briefed. During the period 22, 23 April 45 the provisional company embarked on LST's.

See "Annex C" "Historical Report on Tarakan Operation" (Obos I) for the activities of the Provisional company during the Obos I operation.

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On 25 April 45 the battalion rear echelon loaded on Liberty Ship USS John E. Ward and sailed from Lingayen Gulf three days later. They arrived at Morotai after a fifteen day journey.

With the arrival of the rear echelon on 13 May 45 and the return of the Special Platoon of "A" Co from Tarakan Island on 11 May 45 the battalion was again intact.

Orders were received from the 9th Aust Division for the employment of the battalion in the coming Oboe 6 operation. "A" Company was attached to the 20th Aust Inf Bde. and "B" Company to the 24th Aust Inf Bde. The brigades brought their troops and artillery equipment to our battalion area for LVT orientation and practice in mounting and dismounting artillery weapons. "A" and "B" Companies formed gunnery teams for the instruction of the four Aust assault battalions assigned to man the LVT weapons. On 25 May 45 Battalion Field Order No 2 was issued and the troops briefed two days later. Embarkation of companies on LST's took place during the period 27 May to 31 May 45.

See "Annex I" "Historical Report of Brunei Bay Operation" (Oboe 6) for the activities of the battalion during this period.