

ANNEX F  
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HISTORICAL REPORT OF TARAKAN OPERATION (OBOE I)

See Battalion Field Order #1 dated 17 April 45 for details of battalion mission.

The 9th Australian Division allotted one company of the battalion to the 26th Aust Inf Bde for transporting assault troops to be landed on Lingkas Beach. This battalion furnished a provisional company composed of elements of "A" and "B" Companies.

The provisional company loaded on four LST's at Morotai on 21 and 22 of April. Two days latter a landing rehearsal was held in Morotai harbor. On the 26 April 45 the convoy sailed for the objective.

On 30 April 45, P minus 1 day, the Special Platoon successfully completed its assigned mission of transporting Australian Demolition Engineers Detachment to Lingkas Beach and the obstacles to be breached. Small arms and mortar fire was encountered and quickly silenced by naval support craft. Four LVT's bogged down in the mud while standing by to transport Engineers back to the LST. Crews and Engineers of bogged LVT's were evacuated by those LVT's afloat. The LST remained in the vicinity waiting for the tide to rise and the LVT's to refloat. Hours later the bogged LVT's retracted and re-embarked on LST.

On P Day, 1 May 45, the thirty four troop carrying LVT's disembarked with assault troop from LST's at 0650. LVT waves crossed the line of departure on scheduled time and hit the beach exactly on H Hour (0815). Light small arms fire was silenced by supporting naval craft. Troops were quickly debarked and immediately moved inland. LVT's proceeded to prearranged assembly area south of the Southern Pier. This position was untenable for LVT's and vehicles were tied up to the pier. The Command Post was established in Bn. C.O.'s LVT and unit awaited orders from C.O. 26th Aust Inf. Bde.

Due to a large anti-tank ditch constructed in rear of beaches LVT's could not be used in support of the assault troops. LVT's were also handicapped by the muddy condition of the beaches, which caused vehicles to bog down.

The Provisional Company was employed to some advantage on ship to shore operation. Medical supplies were transported to the beaches and casualties evacuated on the return trips to the ships. Other LVT's were used to move and anchor pontoon causeways.

The following day, P plus 1 day, LVT's continued operations as on previous day. Tractors were also used as prime movers for small craft which ran aground, and in the case of engineer equipment, bogged down in mud.

On P plus 2 Day LVT's performed identical work as on preceding days. During afternoon of this day orders were received for the Provisional Company less the "Special Platoon" (10 LVT's) to load on five LST's for the return to Morotai. Convoy sailed the same evening and arrived at Morotai on 6 May 1945.

The Special Platoon remain at Tarakan four more days at which time they were ordered to load on LST and rejoin the battalion at Morotai. This platoon arrived at Morotai on 11 May 45.

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ANNEX P

# HISTORICAL REPORT OF THE BRUNEI BAY (OBOE SIX) OPERATION.

On the target date, Z-Day, 10 June 45, J Day for the Muara Island phase of the operation, "A" Company LVT's disembarked with transported troops and equipment of the 2/15 Aust Inf Bn from IST's at 0815 and moved to the line of departure in accordance with the prearranged naval assault landing wave diagram. The three successive assault waves hit White Beach exactly on the timetable schedule. Troops and artillery equipment were debarked from LVT's and proceeded to move inland. "A" Company moved to the prearranged assembly area on Red Beach to await further orders. The landing was unopposed and the island free of any enemy troops. The company suffered one casualty, Tec 4 Donald E. Westood, 33100223, from indiscriminate firing by Australian Troops.

Immediately upon arrival in Red Beach assembly area "A" Company prepared to perform missions as assigned in 727th Amph Tractor Bn., Field Order #2. The missions consisted of the following: 1st Platoon LVT's hauled supplies and artillery equipment to forward elements, 2nd Platoon LVT's layed wire to forward troops, moving on the left flank, while other LVT's provided supporting fire, 3rd Platoon LVT's performed identical mission as the 2nd Platoon to the troops moving forward on the right flank of the island. The remaining LVT's moved troops across swampland in the center of the island, and provided transportation for Aust Rcn troops circling the island. Upon completion of the above missions LVT's assisted in unloading of LSM's, employed as prime movers for vehicles traveling through swampland, and picked up survivors of a motor boat sunk in Brunei Bay. LVT's also aided Engineer Demolition Teams in blowing up beach obstacles.

On the same day, 10 June 45, "B" Company LVT's disembarked from IST's off Labuan Island at 0730 for the scheduled landing on Brown Beaches. The landing hour was designated as D Hour which was set at 0915. The fifty two LVT's in the first four assault waves crossed the line of departure at the prearranged time and landed troops and artillery equipment of the 2/43 and 2/ Aust Inf Bns on D Hour. All LVT's then moved to the preassigned assembly area to await movement orders for the subsidiary landing on Hamilton Peninsula.

At 1700, on Z Day, 2nd Platoon "B" Company moved into Victoria Harbor for the assault landing at Horel Point, on Hamilton Peninsula. Platoon waves proceeded under artillery and machine gun fire to land the Aust Cdo Sqn troops on the objective at the prescribed time. Light enemy small arms fire was encountered. No casualties. This platoon continued to operate with the Aust Cdo Sqn in evacuating casualties replenishing supplies, and laying signal cable across Victoria Harbor.

The 1st Platoon hauled all classes of supplies to front line units. All Company "B" LVT's returned to Company C.P. for the night.

The following day, Z plus 1, "A" Company continued unloading of IST's and LSM's. The entire company aided Aust Beach Group in unloading bulk supplies so that IST's could retract on schedule. Company "A" then loaded on same IST's for the return trip to Morotai and participation in the coming Oboe Two operation.

During the period 11 June to 14 June "B" Company hauled supplies to force on Hamilton Point; unloaded LSM's; evacuated wounded natives from Horel Point; laid signal cables and transported Naval Intelligence personnel for an investigation of a partially submerged Japanese ship lying in Victoria Harbor.

On 15 June twenty seven LVT's loaded on IST's in Victoria Harbor for the scheduled landing on the Borneo mainland. Two days later the above troop carrying LVT's landed Australian force at Weston, Borneo. Troops were discharged at the railhead southeast of the town. One LVT was swamped and nine others became bogged down in mud. Remaining seventeen LVT's reloaded on IST's for the return trip to Labuan Island.

On 18 June, thirty LVT's loaded on IST's and departed for participation in the Lutong operation. Two days later on 20 June Australian troops were put ashore as per naval landing schedule. No opposition was encountered. All LVT's reloaded late in the afternoon and left Lutong on the following day.

During the early morning of 21 June a Jap force made a night Banzai attack on the beachhead at Labuan Island. 1st Platoon sentry gave the alarm and the attack was repulsed by 50 caliber machine guns mounted on LVT's. The attack lasted one hour after which fifteen enemy dead were counted in the company area. Our casualties were as follows: John D. Casey, 34515425, Killed in action, and Frank J. Miller, 37626609, wounded in action. Personnel of the 593 Eng Boat and S. shore Regt and Seabee thanked and praised "B" Company troops for sounding the alarm and their expert handling of LVT machine guns.

During the period 22 June to 27 June Company "B" performed limited troop and supply movements as directed by the 9th Aust Division. On 28 June Company "B" loaded on IST's for shipment to Lingayen Gulf, Luzon.

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