

GO/111A/5.

Brig *DA*

BM.

S.C.

I.O.

TOP SECRET

NOTES ON CONFERENCE 0915 29 Mar 45

1. Present

GOC	Comd 26 Bde)	Capt Dugan ^{USN}	With Planning
G I	Staff 26 Bde)	Comd Lampman)	Staff
G II	CRA		
G II (CO)	CRE		
G III(I)	CO Sigs		
G III(Air)	CO 2 Aust		
AQ	Bch Gp		
DAQMG			
PMLO (2)			

With Planning Staff
Maj Varricchio) US Tractor
Lt GARFINKLE) BN

2. Introduction

Outline of OBOE I delivered by Comd 9 Aust Div incl -

Objects and subsidiary objects
General topography
Possible Landing beaches
Oil defence
Covering position
Ground vital to carrying out tasks
Landing supported by Navy and Air Force
Time factor in carrying out tasks

3. Comd 26 Bde - Outlined points raised at conference 2000I 28 Mar 45.

- (a) Discussed comments on night or dawn landing
- (b) Earliest time of daylight landing, considering all factors at present, is 0730 hrs
- (c) Beaching problems
- (d) Causeways
- (e) Unloading AKA
- (f) Shipping
- (g) Convoys
- (h) Medical evacuation
- (i) Coast defence guns
- (j) Oil fires

4. Oil Defence -

- (a) Comd stated that oil defence is merely another form of defence and must not become a "bogey" but kept in true proportion
- (b) Comds on spot will make decision as to dealing with it

5. Navy - Capt Dugan USN outlined naval aspect of OBOE I.

- (a) Admiral Royal comd of Amph Gp 6 of Admiral Barbey's Navy.
- (b) Gave outline of ops previous to OBOE I whose object was to provide fighter cover for OBOE I. (TANGA TANGA airfield for fighter cover, SAMBOENZA for bomber support).
- (c) Minesweepers will sweep mines from approach channels two days before P day.
- (d) Navy expect that they can deal with any coast defence guns that will interfere with landing.
- (e) Close support available -

LCI(R) 4
LCI(Mortar) 2
LCI(G) 4 with 3 in gun and 2 x 40 mm.
10

- (f) Enemy arty fire by indirect methods is not considered to be accurate and if close direct observation is denied may not bother Navy unduly.
- (g) Approach to landing beach during darkness is likely to be difficult, but Navy expect to be able to negotiate it.
- (h) Length of each causeway is 175 ft, ie., 8 x 175 ft. Two causeways side by side are needed to provide MT causeway from LST. Therefore, there are 4 sets each 175 ft giving total 750 ft.
- (i) Navy consider Admiral Kincaid's operation order should not conflict with discussions to date.
- (j) Considered better for Navy to give pre-arranged close support during landing and air to be at call.
- (k) Three SFOPs available for the operation.
- (l) USN will put a Bombardment IO on each supporting naval ship.

6. Time of High Tide

- (a) Must get accurate timings of tides, to decide time of landing.
- (b) On present indications high tide occurs at approx same time as sunrise and sunset.

7. Timings

- (a) Must check timings in summaries etc., and establish a common basis for planning.
- (b) Time zone TARAKAN - "HOW" in Staff Study
- (c) Navy understand GHQ have laid down ITEM zone time.
- (d) Navy stated that Air Force are using ITEM time.
- (e) Navy stated that Admiral Kincaid's order will use ITEM time.

8. H Hour

- (a) Cannot be fixed at present stage of planning.
- (b) ~~In consideration of H-hr air should be able to conform to.~~

9. Coordination

- (a) Navy and Air Force bombing targets must be coordinated with Army requirements.
- (b) In planning Air are not as reliable as Navy ^{owing to weather factor} and are most useful after landing effected.

10. Assault Bns

- (a) 26 Bde will land with two bns forward.
- (b) Southern pier must be secured as early as possible.

11. Landing Beaches

Beach NW of Pier 1 is being examined but hinterland not good.
Limit of landing beach can be considered as 4000 ft.

12. Covering Position

Covering position given by div is minimum. 26 Bde may need to extend it to include other dominating ground.

13. Beach Obstacles

- (a) Something resembling obstacles appears on air photographs.
- (b) Until disproved the following will be assumed:
 - (i) Underwater obstacle (location in relation to high tide is not yet known).
 - (ii) Tank ditch (may be drain running into swamp).
 - (iii) Wire obstacle - Appears to be single fence and at present cannot decide if a solid obstacle, but low obliques should clear this up.
LVTs do not like idea of forcing such an obstacle.
- (c) Tank ditch should not present difficulty to RAE -
 - (i) either by filling in, or
 - (ii) by bridging.

14. Beach Maint Area

- (a) Area laid down in outline plan was agreed to generally.
- (b) Planning on maint project can proceed.

15. Comd.

- (a) Navy have complete control while force is afloat until the ground forces including the army comd are established ashore. Army comd is there to advise Navy but has not the command or responsibility at this time. Decisions made would therefore be joint, but in case of disagreement the naval decision is final.
- (b) Example - If assault bde ashore but div comd afloat Navy is still in comd of operation. Once div comd goes ashore he comds ashore.
- (c) Once comd 26 Bde ashore and in a posn to comd he communicates with Naval comd. Comd ashore then passes at an arranged time to comd 26 Bde and higher Hqs etc., informed.
- (d) It is considered as a general rule that when Army comd has decided where to commit his floating reserve he should then go ashore.

16. Planning

- (a) Detailed planning will now pass to 26 Bde with div staff cooperating. A div staff representative will attend all 26 Bde conferences.
- (b) 9 Aust Div Outline Plan will be issued tomorrow with certain gaps not yet decided.

17. Designation of Beaches

Designation of beaches to be decided at conclusion of this conference, by a conference under the control of comd 26 Bde.

Distribution: Navy
26 Bde ✓
Comd
G
AQ

for *Drummond May*
Lt Col
GS
9 Aust Div