

Appn "N"
TOP SECRET

PLANNING 9 AUST DIV

NOTES ON CONFERENCE 0900I 3 APR 45

1. Present

AS for conference 0900I 2 Apr 45.

2. GSO III(Int)

- (a) Low obliques and verticals of TARAKAN coastline from CAPE PASIR to river 3886 received 2 Apr 45 (flown 31 Mar).
- (b) Aircraft taking verticals experienced NO enemy AA fire. Aircraft taking obliques reported slight AA fire from medium type guns (probably about 75 mm).
- (c) Pilots reported machinery and workmen on TARAKAN airstrip runway.
- (d) One cargo vessel and seven barges seen in TARAKAN harbour at 1200I 31 Mar 45.
- (e) Air photo interpretation by Sqn-Ldr BIRD (geologist and air photo interpreter) examined photos of bomb craters LINGGAS beach approx 300 yds NW of oil pipeline, and considers that beach here consists of a mixture of sand and mud with sufficient sand to be rigid under stress. Considers that men could walk over this in six inches of mud.
- (f) Read extracts from AMF intelligence summary regarding -
 - (i) shipping sighting
 - (ii) enemy air strengths and activity
 - (iii) enemy use of gas
 - (iv) enemy use of mines.
- (g) Two copies of map of TARAKAN area showing sea minefields and CG guns.

3. GSO III (Air)

- (a) Liberators will be flying over BALIKPAPAN during night 3/4 Apr 45 with object of finding and destroying shipping.
- (b) A three day attack to be carried out on KUCHING targets, power plant, ship building yards, barracks and the airfield which was serviceable and had on it 26 aircraft, four of which were dummies.

4. CRA

Conference held 2 Apr 45 to discuss air force requirements for AA defence. The employment of AA arty available for operations is still under consideration.

5. Sigs

- (a) GO Sigs 9 Aust Div is endeavouring to obviate use of operational equipment in the staging area.
- (b) Code names for use in operations have been approved and issued by GHC. (Code names change daily after the third day.

6. GSO I

- (a) Adv BHQ has been requested to provide FBE equipment required for OBDE CRE at MORDAI by 20 Apr 46.
- (b) Six 2 x 30 pontoon causeways are available ex FINCHHAFEN. Navy is taking action to try and obtain these.

7. DAJMG

- (a) 1000 stretchers have been requested for OBDE CRE. 5000 have been shipped ex 1 Aust Corps Pool, but may NOT arrive in time. If necessary stretchers will be taken from landing reserves and replaced on arrival of the 5000 stretchers in transit.
- (b) All vehicles being shipped from AUSTRALIA will carry 2 x 4 gal petrol containers.
- (c) G is to check -
 - (i) to what extent movement schedule of units from AUSTRALIA is getting behind schedule.
 - (ii) whether tanks of 2/9 Aust Arm Regt were moved to coast in accordance with GOC's wishes.

8. Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde

- (a) Outlined latest beach information obtained from Lt SDRAX.
- (b) Beaches near southern pier are best, deteriorating to northern pier and beyond.
- (c) Jap activity is reported on SADAN ISLAND. AAFIU are restudying air photographs to confirm and determine activity and any possible defences.
- (d) An outline engineer plan for breaching the beach obstacle has been prepared. Will require a good deal of smoke and close support.
- (e) Landing on SADAN ISLAND will take place on F minus 1 at approximately 0800 hours.

9. Navy

- (a) Navy have photos of enemy land mines and defences on ZAMBOANGA.
- (b) Navy have requested Admiral ROYAL to investigate possibility of obtaining NL pontoon causeways from FINCHHAFEN.

10. Pilfering

- (a) SC 26 Aust Inf Bde reported a known case of pilfering from wharf.
- (b) AG is to investigate and take necessary action.

Handwritten signature
(T G TRIMMER) Maj
For Lt Col
GS 9 Aust Div

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26 Aust Inf Bde
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War Diary (2) ✓