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TOP SECRET

ADV HQ 9 AUST DIV

CONFERENCE 09001 6 APR 45

1. Present :

As for conference 0900 I 4 Apr less reps 593 MB and SR.

2. GS Branch

- (a) Approval has been given for provision of three extra causeway sets of NL pontoons for OBOE ONE to move with LSTs for operation from MANUS.
- (b) CC Sigs 9 Aust Div departed 6 Apr to attend GHQ signal conference.

3. GSO III (Int)

- (a) A signal from 1 Aust Corps gives following information :-

In view of conflicting reports on condition of beaches at LINGKAS, a detailed study is being made by GHQ engineer intelligence which will delay arrival of terrain evaluation handbook by approximately three days.

- (b) Natives apprehended by SRD from NORTH of TARAOKAN are at MOROTAI and it is hoped they will be available to 26 Aust Inf Bde today.
- (c) Read further reports from Capt REINDERHOFF in regard to placing CD guns at PENTINGKI - KARONGGAM and in regard to reports by INETIS on landing beaches at LINGKAS. Full information contained in LANDBRIS signal 090257 addressed to Adv 1 Aust Corps.

4. GSO III (Air)

- (a) 13th Bomber Command is to carry out following missions 5/6 Apr -

Photographic reconnaissance of BALIKPAPAN at 03501 6 Apr.
Perform armed shipping search of southern CELEBES and
MAKASSAR STRAITS.
Strike JOLO ISLAND.
Concurrent with photographic reconnaissance of BALIKPAPAN,
3 B24s will hit SEPINGGAN.

- (b) Air missions 5 Apr

1 40 ft sail boat - sunk
15 two masted schooners) Bombed and strafed, resulting in
1 three masted schooner) 4 being destroyed 12 damaged.

Oil storage and personnel areas at TARAOKAN were bombed, destroying 1 building SOUTH of TARAOKAN town and starting a nearby fire with smoke to 2000 ft. LINGKAS also strafed with observed hits on tanks.

A shipping search within a radius of 50 miles of BALIKPAPAN was carried out. NO shipping was sighted and bombs were dropped on SEPINGGAN airfield.

(c) Air missions 4 Apr

307 Bomber Gp had six B24's on TARAOKAN personnel area from 1143I to 1203I and dropped 33 x 250 lb bombs and 120 NAPALM bombs. 80% were in target area 2 barrack buildings were hit - AA nil.
Sighted 6 SDs and approximately 8 barges at pier area TARAOKAN.
PANOESTIAN tank farm hit by six Liberators results NOT observed.
TARAOKAN radio station - 20% of bombs on target.

5. DAAG

- (a) Task force stores previously advised being shipped IM GARRISON arriv : 11 Apr 45.
- (b) HQ B Aust Naval Bombardment Tp is moving with 26 Aust Inf Bde.
- (c) ECOs and ships adjts 24 Aust Inf Bde expected arrive MOROTAI 15 Apr 45.
- (d) Read letter from Rear HQ 9 Aust Div referring to provision of trucks 2 1/2 ton 6 x 6 in lieu of tractors TD9 and TD18 in field regiments.
1 Aust Corps Signal SD771 of 271000K also refers.
- (e) Maj NATHAN DAAG was expected to be discharged from hospital on 1 Apr 45.

6. Scales for landing OBOE ONE and TWO

- (a) GOC advised conference that GHO consider that the total force of personnel and vehicles appears to be excessive for both operations.
It will be necessary to examine order of battle in detail and to slim down the numbers. This applies particularly to services but position will have to be reviewed by all concerned. A conference will be held following this conference to consider COB and scale down as much as possible.
It may be possible to build up in re-supply shipping.
- (b) Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde requested navy to provide details of naval facilities detachment with a view to reducing vehicles and personnel if possible.

7. Corps Commander's comment on plan

- (a) GOC 1 Aust Corps desires that it is impressed on commanders that they must NOT stop on objectives and exploit as far as possible.
- (b) 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn will NOT be used as a fighting unit except in an emergency. It is to be used for labour in the area with 2 Aust Beach Gp.

8. Corps coordinating conference OBOE ONE 7 Apr 45

- (a) GOC desires that planning be carried forward as far as possible in preparation for conference.
- (b) CRA advised that naval bombardment plan is complete up to H plus 15 minutes and has been approved by Commander 26 Aust Inf Bde, airforce and navy.
- (c) Capt DUGAN requested that time of conference be retarded until at least the afternoon of 7 Apr 45 to give Admiral ROYALE time to consider the plan.

9. Reinforcements - replacements of battle and sick casualties

- (a) GOC considers estimated requirements of replacements are too high in the light of past experience and does NOT consider the casualty rate will be as high as at present thought by higher authority.
- (b) GOC 1 Aust Corps considers that it may NOT be necessary to provide 2 General Hospitals for CBOE TWO.
ADMS is to review the necessity for them.

10. Provision of equipment

- (a) Commander 26 Aust Inf Bde requested information on ETA of TBE and associated stores. NO further information is known. Further info
 - (b) Q Branch are to take immediate provision action for complete issues of WE.
11. Approximately 75% of 727 AMTRAC Bn have arrived this area, remainder expected in approximately one week.
12. ROCKY MOUNT is expected to arrive 1800 hrs 6 Apr 45.
13. FMLO requested navy to take up question of moving any LCT's which may become available independently to TARAkan.

Bennett

Lt Col
GS 9 Aust Div

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