

APP B/APR/45

SECRET

Copy No. 27...

20 Apr 45

2/13 AUST FD COY RAE 001

OPERATION - OBCE ONE

Issued in conjunction with 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE Administration Order No.1

Reference Maps:- Island of TARAKAN 1/80,000
TARAKAN ISLAND NORTH SPECIAL 1/25,000
TARAKAN ISLAND SOUTH SPECIAL 1/25,000
SADAU SPECIAL 1 inch to 50 yards
Vertical & Oblique aerial photographs
Photo Map TARAKAN 1/10,000

INFORMATION

1. Topography

- (a) See 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Review 2 OBCE ONE
- (b) GHQ SWPA Engineer Intelligence Reports Nos 6a & 7
- (c) Designation of beaches.

(i) LINGKAS Beaches

WHITE BEACH	From 418634 to 421633
RED BEACH ONE	" 421633 to 423629
" " TWO	" 423629 to 425626
YELLOW BEACH	" 425626 to 428624
GREEN BEACH ONE	428624 to 429623
" " TWO	429623 to 431621

(ii) BLUE BEACH - SADAU ISLAND

2. ENEMY

- (a) Disposition, strength and identifications
 - (b) Defences, including Beach Obstacles
-) See 1 Aust Corps
Intelligence Review
No.2 OBCE ONE

3. Own Troops

(a) Task Force to:-

- (a) land on island of TARAKAN, capture the port and airfield and destroy the enemy forces on the island
- (b) land on island of SADAU and establish a field battery.

26 Aust Bde Gp (incl 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE, Dets 2/24 Aust Fd Pl Coy RAE, Det 3 Aust Engr Sig Sec)

With under command:-

2 Aust Beach Gp (incl 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE, 2 Aust Mech Bqpt Pl RAE, 2 Aust Beach Stores Pl RAE, Det Docks Op Coy RAE, 1 Aust BD Pl RAE)

1 Aust Corps Tps (incl HQ RAE 1 Aust Corps Tps, 2 Aust Fd Coy RAE, One Pl 5 Aust Mech Bqpt Coy RAE)

1 Aust Base Sub Area Tps (incl One Pl Docks Op Coy RAE)

(b) Naval support

Naval Task force comprises:-

2 CL
6 DD
4 LCI (R)
2 LCI (M)
6 LCS (L)

(c) Air support

The force available to support the operation consists of:-

Two groups medium bombers
One group dive bombers
Six Squadrons heavy bombers
One group of fighters
Night fighters
Photographic aircraft
Courier flying boats

4. Meteorology- See 1 Aust Corps Intelligence Review 2 - OBCE ONE
Note:- To obtain ITEM time from TARAKAN time add 90 minutes to TARAKAN time.

INTENTION

5. 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE and attached RAE units will support 26 Aust Inf Bde Group.

METHOD

6. Engineer Tasks - Summary

(a) P - 1 day

- (i) Land Det 2/24 Aust Fd Coy RAE & 1/D4 Angle-dozer on SADAU Is to support 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn and 57 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt.
(ii) Breach 4 gaps of not less than 30' on enemy obstacles on RED BEACH, 4 gaps of not less than 30' on GREEN BEACH and 4 gaps of not less than 60' on YELLOW BEACH.

(b) P day

- (i) Assist 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE where necessary in engineer work required to supplement the development of the landing beaches for unloading of troops, vehicles, guns and stores.
(ii) Complete clearance of beach under water obstacles
(iii) Support Assaulting bns, reserve bns and AFVs
(iv) Construct light aircraft strip for AUSTER aircraft.
(v) Repair and maintain roads in direct support of Bde Gp advance
(vi) Prepare bivouac areas for unit troops, stores and vehicles.
(vii) Initiate Water Supply, filtrate and purify in accordance with requirements of 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp and initiate supplies required after P plus 1 day until relieved by 1 Aust Corps Tps RAE on following schedule -

P plus 2 day - 50,000 galls
P plus 3 day - 75,000 galls
P plus 4 day - 100,000 galls
Thereafter - 100,000 galls daily

- (viii) Carry out any necessary assault bridging or bridge repair.
(ix) Assist in clearing areas for CCS & MDS if necessary.
(x) Carry out normal engineer forward recce, minefield and booby trap clearance.
(xi) Provide minimum accommodation required for Administration HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp.

Command

OC 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE will command all engrs allocated by 26 Aust Inf Bde to the assault phase and will be responsible to Commander 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp for co-ordination of all engr work in the assault phase.

Allocation of units

The following RAE Corps Troops are allocated under comd 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE -

2 Aust Fd Coy RAE less One Pl
Pl 5 Aust Mech Engr Coy

9. Allotment of Sub-Units to Tasks (See also "Allotment of RAE Units to Ships & Initial Tasks" issued previously)

(a) P-1 Day

(i) SADAU Is Landing

Det of 2 ORs 2/24 Aust Fd Pk Coy RAE with one D4 Angle dozer will land on SADAU Is under command 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn to support landing and emplacement of Fd Arty & AA Guns.

(ii) Underwater Obstacle Demolition (See also orders issued separately for detailed plan)

7 Pl - Pl Comd & Three Secs

8 Pl - One half Section

9 Pl - Pl Comd and Three Secs

Coy HQ - OC and 4 ORs (2 Dvr Ops and Two RAP orderlies)
Will carry out breaching of obstacles on LYNKAS Beaches.

(b) P Day

(i) Direct Support

7 Pl - One Sec in support of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn in landing on GREEN BEACH (Assault Bn)

8 Pl - One Sec in support of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn (Reserve Bn)

Two Secs in support of "C" Sqn 2/9 Aust Arm'd Regt

8 Pl - Pl Comd and comd group to land with 2/24 Bn and co-ordinate support engr tasks and initiate engr forward recce.

Coy Comd and Pl Comd Wireless Jeeps will land and proceed to Engr Report Centre to await commander's orders

(ii) Liaison

Fd Engr and 4 ORs with 103 set will land with Bde HQ and act as Engr Liaison Party.

(iii) Beach obstacle clearance

Dets 7 & 9 Pl (less baggage parties) previously employed on P-1 day will land in LVT(4)s ex IST 1 at app H plus 25 mins to assist 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE in clearance beach obstacles.

2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE will be responsible for clearance of obstacles and mines above high water mark.

Two Secs of 2 Aust Fd Coy RAE will report to Lt. R.E. DODS 7 Pl 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE for allocation to assist clearance parties.

In the event of obstacles being capable of being removed by use of Mech Eqpt requests for same will be made to Mech Eqpt central Officer on RED BEACH.

(iv) Beach & BMA area preparation

2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE with Det 2/2 Aust Pioneer Bn in reserve will be entirely responsible for all work on Beach and in BMA including -

- (a) Construction of causeways & feeders
- (b) " " beach exits & roadways
- (c) Clearance of mines & beach obstacles
- (d) Recovery of Engr Equipment
- (e) Establishment of Water Supply in BMA & conservation & handling of Water Stores unloaded.
- (f) Receiving and holding engineer stores
- (g) Road construction in dump areas
- (h) Construction PM Cage
- (i) Recce of Piers and delousing of prepared demolition (if any)

(v) Mechanical Equipment

Mech Eqpt of :-

2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE

2/11 " " " " (less one Auto Patrol)

2 " " " "

2/24 " " Pk Coy RAE (less one TD13 Angledozer)

2 Aust M.E. Pl

Pl 5 Aust Mech Eqpt Pl (less Carryalls Ripper drawn grader & shovel)

A.E.M.E. Beach Gp

2/123 Aust Bde Wkshps

will be available for assistance in the construction of causeways feeders, beach exits and initial road repair.

Mech Eqp't cont

On landing the initial use of Mech Eqp't will be co-ordinated on each beach by the respective Pl Comds 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE. Co-ordination of use of eqpt between beaches, air strip, road works, and operational demands will be the responsibility of OC 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE until OC 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE lands when the responsibility will transfer to him.

As soon as ME commences to land from LSTs, ME OC 2 Aust ME Pl will establish a report centre close to RED BEACH HQ and will be responsible for the allotment and control of all Mech Eqp't on RED & YELLOW Beaches irrespective of which unit it belongs to and in accordance with priority of work as laid down by Beach Gp HQ or requested for operational use by OC 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE. OC Pl 5 Aust Mech Eqp't Coy will establish a similar report centre on GREEN BEACH.

OC 2 Aust ME Pl and OC Pl 5 Aust ME Coy will be responsible for the provision and erection of one sign at each report centre consisting of a square 2' x 2' bearing in white letters in an Engr Blue background the words ME Report Centre.

All D8 Dozers or Tractors will be equipped with additional winch rope to give an extra 250'.

Pl Comds of 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE, 2 Aust M.E. Pl and Pl 5 Aust M.E. Coy with all operators of Mech Eqp't will attend a conference at 1000 hrs 21 Apr 45 at HQ RAE 9 Aust Div.

vi) Construction AUSTER Strip

OC 2 Aust Fd Coy RAE will be responsible for construction of AUSTER Strip from 428624 to 430628.

One D.12 Auto Patrol ex 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE

One TD.18 Angledozer ex 2/24 Aust Fd Pk Coy RAE

will be available for this work and will be sent forward from M.E. Report Centre on demand.

The work involved will consist of widening the existing road for a distance of 240 yds to a width of 75 feet clear with a central running surface of 25 feet.

vii) Road & Bridge repair and/or maintenance

8/3 Ton Tipper ex 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE & 8/3 ton Tipper ex 2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE will carry bridging stores and on landing will proceed to Engr Bivouac & Dump area as soon as tactical situation permits.

2 Aust Fd Coy RAE will provide One Pl to unload trucks which do NOT carry Bailey Br and will remain with Bailey Br trucks to form first reserve for operational use of that bridge.

viii) Bivouac Area

Each unit will be responsible for furnishing Bivouac parties to report to Bivouac Report Centre and to lay out their own camp sites in accordance with 26 Aust Inf Bde Adm Order No.1.

Captain W H BRENNEN, 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE will be responsible for the allocation of unit areas in the general engineer bivouac & dump area.

ix) UXBs

1 Aust Bomb Disposal Pl will send a runner to RAE Report Centre and will be responsible for disposal of all UXBs on demands through RAE Comd or Beach Gp Comd.

x) Distribution of Engr Force to Ships (Issued separately)

1. Loading Tables (Issued with 26 Aust Inf Bde OO.1)

2. Landing Diagrams (Issued with 26 Aust Inf Bde OO.1)

3. P Day

1 May 45

4. H Hour

0815 ITEM

15. Air Warning

On receipt of warning, action will be taken in accordance with the following conditions:-

FLASH BLUE - enemy or unidentified plane approaching area
FLASH RED - enemy air attack imminent
FLASH WHITE - all clear

In conjunction with above conditions following control terms will be broadcast:-

CONTROL GREEN - All guns will hold fire except in the case of direct attack and then, only automatic weapons (including light anti-aircraft guns) will be employed.

CONTROL YELLOW - All guns will engage hostile aircraft independently.

16. Convoys

Apart from LOB personnel, all unit personnel vehicles & stores NOT included in the distribution of force to ship for the assault convoy will move to TARAKAN in the subsequent convoys due to arrive between P plus 8 and P plus 10 days.

17. Special Instructions to assault troops

(a) Life Jackets

- (i) All assault troops will wear life jackets during the passage from ship to shore.
- (ii) Life jackets will NOT be removed until such time as the LVT commander of craft coxswain gives the order on reaching the beach.
- (iii) Unless life jackets are required for wading ashore, they will be left in the craft.

(b) Safeguards against drowning

- (i) Assault troops, if compelled to wade ashore, will ensure that trouser legs are removed from gaiters until dry land is reached.
- (ii) This is to avoid the risk of trousers filling with water and forcing troops under the surface in deep water.

18. Anti malarial & Anti mite precautions

Full precautions will be taken in accordance with paras 26 & 27 of 26 Aust Inf Bde Adm Order No.1

19. Security

- (a) Until further notice, all orders, instructions and messages connected with this operation will be classified as SECRET.
- (b) Upon receipt of this order, all units will be informed of the plan and fully briefed in their tasks.
- (c) The operation will be referred to as OBCE ONE.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

20. Location of Coy HQ -

(a) Afloat - EST 1

(b) First Phase

RAE Report Centre 426627 i.e. approx 100 yds N of road intersection close to destroyed Oil Tank.

Note: All major units will send one runner to report to HQ RAE who will remain until dismissed to his company

21. Bivouac Report Centre

Bivouac Report Centre 429627 i.e. outside house 50 yds west of end of AUSTER Strip.

22. Bivouac & Stores Area

The General Engr Bivouac & Stores Area will be within the area marked on key map

23. Wireless Silence

- (a) (i) For the landing on SADAU Island on P minus 1 - May be broken at J minus 1 hour
- (ii) For the breaching task task by RAE on P minus 1 - May be broken at T minus 1 hour
- (iii) Wireless silence on P day - will be maintained by all army wireless stations until H minus 1 hour.
- (b) On P day listening watch will be maintained from H minus 2 hours by all wireless sets to be used while force is afloat.
- (c) Emergency communications afloat prior to H minus 1 hour will be passed only by means of appropriate code words -- over navy channels.
- (d) After H minus 1 hour wireless silence will be imposed or broken only by means of appropriate code words.

24. Synchronisation of Time

- (a) Ships time will be used while force is afloat.
- (b) After landing time will be ~~transmitted~~ calculated from time broadcasts from station WFO(US Army)BRISBANE as follows:-

<u>Times</u>	<u>Frequencies</u>	<u>Accuracy</u>
0755Z - 0800Z	5000 and 10,000 kc/s)
1155Z - 1200Z	5000 and 15,000 ") within
1955Z - 2000Z	5000 and 10,000 ") 1 second
2355Z - 2400Z	5000 and 10,000 "	Within 5 sec

- (c) In the event of reception from Sta WFO being impossible synchronisation will be effected on ABC or BBC broadcasts
- (d) Correct time will be passed through sig channels in the normal way.

25. Netting of wireless sets to frequencies

- (a) Frequency standards.
Station WFO(US Army)Brisbane operating on 5000 kc/s and 15,000 kc/s continuously.
- (b) All sets will be netted on the near shore as follows:-
 - (i) Control stas will be placed on frequency by frequency meter prior to netting of groups.
 - (ii) Sets will be "warmed up" prior to netting.
 - (iii) All dial readings will be noted and details affixed to the sets.
 - (iv) Types and lengths of aerials will be noted and details affixed to sets. These aerials will be used at far shore.
 - (v) Dials will be locked either by locking nuts or by "jams" inserted with care between dial and face of set.
- (c) Netting check will be immediately carried out on approval at scene of action and in conjunction with the breaking of wireless silence.

26. Code signs and Code Names

- (a) Extracts of Code Signs and Code Names for use from P to 0700I hrs on P plus 3 will be distributed later and will remain fixed throughout that period.
- (b) Normal allotment wide Code Sign and Code Name Director (previously distributed to all ANF sig Secs concerned) will be brought into use as from 0700I hrs on P plus 3 and daily change effected thereafter.

27. Frequency Allotment

- (a) Frequencies for use from P to 0700I hrs on P plus 3 will be issued later and will remain fixed throughout that period.
 (b) Normal frequency allotment previously distributed to all AMF Sig Secs concerned will be brought into use at 0700I hrs on P plus 3 and daily change effected thereafter.

28. Code Words for changing Frequency

Changing of frequencies will be effected only by use of code words distributed to AMF Signal Sections.

29. Appointment Code

Current Appointments Code, as under, will be used when referring to individuals, branches and appointments,

Commander	SUNRAY
"G" Staff	SEAGULL
AQ Staff	MOLAR
I Staff	ACORN
Signals Adviser	PROMO
RAA	SHELLERAKE
RAE	HOLDFAST
ST	FLATLINE
Med	STARLIGHT
Ord	RICKSHAW
AMEE	BLUEBELL

30. Line Communications

All cable will be laid on the ~~left~~ LEFT of the road and all Mech Bgpt Operators & MT drivers will be warned to keep clear of sig lines.

31. Distribution of Coy W/T sets

As per 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE Adm Order No.1 appendix B Annexure 1(a)
 All No 11 & 22 sets will be Jeep mounted and waterproofed.

32. Synchronisation - #

- (a) ITEM Time zone will be used.
 (b) SJips time will be used while force is afloat.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Signed at 1600 hrs 20 Apr 45

Issued by hand

Distribution

	Copy Nos
7 Pl	1 - 2
8 Pl	3 - 4
9 Pl	5 - 6
Fd Engrs	7 - 8
2.1/c	9 - 10
GRE 9 Aust Div	11
GRE 1 Aust Corps Fps	12 - 15
2/11 Aust Fd Coy RAE	16 - 19
O.C.	20
File	21
War Diary	22 - 23
Observers	24 - 27
Spares	28 - 30

Major
 O.C. 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE