

Analysis of Enemy Activity

Brooketon Brunei area from 10 Jan 45

1. Strength, ~~Identification and Dispositions~~
10 Jan 45:

(W) Japanese strength in the Brooketon -
Brunei area at the date of our landing
was approx 850. Comprising two
depleted ~~infantry~~ ^{infantry} batts and miscellaneous
tps.

2. Identifications

(a) 366 IIB: One of the Infantry Bns
of 56 IMB, this unit was commanded
by Maj SATO. It had been
at TAWAO until ^{approx 22 Feb} 45 when it
when, with other units of the
IMB it commenced to move
west across Borneo arriving
in the Brunei area ~~approx~~ during
Apr 45. Strength of unit on 1 Dec 44
at TAWAO was 971 but by Feb it
had been reduced to approx 350.
~~and~~ due mainly to sickness. Of
these only 250 reached
Brunei ~~and these were reinforced~~ ^{and this was then approx}
with 50 civilians making strength
at 10 Jan approx 300.
strength at the time of our landing.

(b) 367 IIB: This bn of 56 IMB

participated in the ~~assault~~ ^{assault} on
the ~~last~~ ^{last} Borneo arriving in Brunei

guard unit and were stationed at the 64
avastik near BERAKUS Rd

(d) KASHIO tr. These tps had been
~~at MADA~~ at BROOKETON but
withdrew and joined the main
body of 36 IIB prior to our
landing

(e) Remaining tps: These were mainly
located in and around BRUNEI Town area
Approx 50 tps, incl possibly medical
personnel and hospitalized tps were
probably in the LIMBANG area

4 Moos ~~to~~ during between 10 Jun and 13 Jun

3 Coy 366 IIB withdrew, apart from
small gks as described, westwards
along the coast from BROOKETON
Peninsular.

3 Coy 367 IIB moved up ^{by Rd} from TUTONG
to BRUNEI and joined the remainder
of the Bn on 11 Jun

HQ 56 IMB withdrew by boat
to LIM BANG

367 IIB commenced, as early as night
10/11 Jun ~~to~~ to withdraw ^{up the LIMBANG River} South. Some
moved by boat, and others
down the LIMBANG Rd. With this
we moved many of the odd
dets who had been located in BRUNEI

366 IIB less 3 Coy and plus
odd dets ~~from~~ as KASHIO tr, elements
of 36 IIB and odd dets in the area
before as in a easterly direction overland

to village on the western bank of the BRUNEI
River Sq 5139 (Brunei census 1950)

5. Subsequent moves

(a) 366 IIB 3 clay evacuated west
along the coast past the end of the
BERAKUS Rd and then turning SW
to crossing the BRUNEI-TUTONG Rd
via rd bend 382408 They were
reported to ^{have passed} the end of BERAKUS Rd
by 20 Jan to have reached SENGKURONG
(371402) ^{before} 23 Jan and, moving
parallel to the BOTONG Rd, to have
reached LEMUNIN by 24 Jan. They
were then reported to have moved
east towards BT MATHAUA ^{via BT BIDANG}
No further info of them now no
available.

(b) 366 IIB less 3 clay. After moving
East from KUM BONG PASANG Estate
to village Sq 5139 on the BRUNEI
River, the remnants of this band
totalling approx 100 crossed the
river at night in native pirogues to
P ^{BERAMANG} ~~LIMPAKU~~. The first reports of them
having reached the island was
on 19 Jan. By 25 Jan they appear
to have been on P. ^{partially} ~~LIMPAKU~~.
It is certain that by 28 Jan the

(5)

whole party had vacated LIMPAKU Island.
Some of them (40/50) ~~seem~~ seem to
have moved to RAN-GAU (S. 5032)
and the remainder (20/30) to have
escaped south on rafts to JAI JAI
Island.

It seems to have been the intention
of this party to have moved up the LIMBANG
River and, even while they were on
LIMPAKU, odd Japs were captured
near LIMBANG who had escaped from
LIMPAKU. After vacating LIMPAKU
they still tried to move south through
swampy country and it is
considered that substantially the
whole gp has now been wiped out.

It is considered that very few of
366 ITB moved EAST from LIMBANG
~~with the~~ and certainly, as a ~~formation~~
unit ceased to exist after
28 Jun.

(4) 367 ITB and odd det

(C) 142 56 IMB.

After reaching LIMBANG this
gp appear to have moved onward
in an easterly direction towards
TRUSAN. They seem to have cleared
LIMBANG by 17 Jun and to have
reached TRUSAN by the 19th or 20th.
From there they moved up ~~the~~ ^{the} TRUSAN

(6)

River to PA TENGOA where the
swung east into BNB

(A) 367 IIB and odd det. This

force, comprising up to 400
persons moved by various routes
to the TRUSAN River via SEBOLL.
Some moved via MEVAGATAI (where
they were reported on 20 Jan) to MAKAU
and from there swinging ~~to~~ SE to
BTSAGAN. Elements at least were in
this area on 23 Jan. From BTSAGAN
their route was via ANSGOR S. BATU APOI
BTSUANG then to SEBOLL. The main
body appears to have arrived at BTSUANG about 20 Jan.
Another ~~large~~ group from this party
after visiting BTSAGAN moved to ANSGOR
and then to the west bank of the
STEMBUBONG to BILAP where
there was and about across a to
SELAPAN. They crossed the BATU
APOI at this point & then moved
up the SELAPAN and across to
SEBOLL.

Actually the route east from the
LIMBANG area to SEBOLL does appear
to have been very narrow and the
ground does seem to have been
disrupted.

From SEBOLL, which was
a concentration point for this and
such elements to 367 IIB and

(4)

the accompanying deta as arrived
in the area moved up the TRUSAN River,
as did HQ 56 IMB to the PA TENGOA area.
From there they swung east into
BNB and their subsequent move &
intentions are not known to the HQ.

Enemy Activity

SERIA — K BELAIT area

A. General : Japs reached the outskirts of SERIA on 20 Jun and entered the town on 21 Jun moving on immediately to K BELAIT ^{which was occupied on} Both towns were occupied without ~~great~~ opposition the Japs having withdrawn previously. Info obtained from released Indian PW suggest that planning for immediate landing in this area the Japs actually evacuated K BELAIT on 11 Jun returning on 14 Jun, when the massacre took place, and then evacuating again before 20 Jun.

B. Identifications and Strengths Only among the identified in the area were elements of KEMPAI TAI and 307 Indep MT Coy (KAMIMURA Tai) — code designation NADA 1745. Both from native reports and from the WE of Indep MT Coy it seems that the total number of army Japs from incl KTUTONG to incl K BELAIT was not more than 200. In addition there was a considerable number of natives (the majority probably oilfield employees) in the area. From an analysis of many reports it is thought that these totalled about 400 and that altogether there were not more than 600 Japs in the area.

C. Evacuation Routes The primary concentration point for all Japs in this coastal area seems to have been LABI. Evacuation to this village was by 3 main routes: —
(1) From K BELAIT up the BELAIT River by craft to K BALAI thence up the DAMIT River to either SEMBURU or TERIAM. A route runs from SEMBURU to TERIAM and thence via SIMPANG to LABI.

(ii) From SERIA. Along rly line to BADAS, across suspension br and then along to via BTPUAN, TANAJOR, SIMPANG to LABI

(iii) From K TUTONG area. It is most likely from the evidence of abandoned trucks, that the route was by MT along the ABANG rd as far as possible, thence by tr to RAMBAI and the TUTONG River, then by tr across to the BELAIT River at CHOWAT and by tr via PANG SIONG to LABI

D. Subsequent Mov. It is considered that it was originally intended by Col AIKYO who commanded the whole area MIRI - K TUTONG to concentrate his whole force at MARUDI whence evacuation by tr and river to KUCHING could be put into operation. ^{moving to} ^{SRD intention} It is possible that instead of MARUDI BELURU was to be the concentration point. In any event to implement this intention it was necessary to move the japs in the K BELAIT - TUTONG area through LABI to MARUDI (and possibly on to BELURU) to join the japs who had moved out from the MIRI - TUTONG area.

As a result of our adv on LABI, the japs fell back first to RAMPAYOH then to MENDAHAM. Early in Jul a recce of MARUDI was made and it seems that the japs, as a result, believed that MARUDI was held by us in strength. Many reports were received of parties of japs leaving RAMPAYOH for MARUDI and returning after reaching RIDAN. Subsequently SRD reported that the japs had made a recce of the RIDAN - LINEI tr.

(3)

This move appears to have proved satisfactory and the party moved from MENDARAM to RIDAN and south along the tr to LINE 1. It is considered that the whole force is ^{now} concentrated vic LINE 1

E. TIMINGS As no contact was made with the Jap during his evacuation info on the move has been primarily based on native reports and statements by released Indian POW. For this reason the following timings cannot be regarded as exact.

Between 10 June and 20 June: Evacuation in strength of coastal towns commenced (Many of the civilians probably moved to LABI earlier than this)

22 June: Reports that work at LABI had commenced - several hundred reported

27 June: Estimated apots in LABI area 600 Reports that prior to this date evacuation of LABI to RAMPAYOH had begun.

29 June: Concentration of Jap party at RAMPAYOH virtually complete. Many reports at this time indicated that the Japs intended to make a stand in the high ground near RAMPAYOH

3 Jul: Bulk of force came at MENDARAM, with fwd elements down the tr towards MARUDI

8 Jul: Patrol reported MENDARAM clear Prior to this the Japs had rec'd the MARUDI tr and also the tr to RIDAN LINE 1 and by the 8 Jul it seems that a last elements of the force had moved through RIDAN down the LINE 1 tr.

10 Jul: RIDAN clear. It seems certain that none of the Japs from this area moved into MARUDI and that the concentrated all LINE 1

JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION OF KUALA BELAIT

DURING OCCUPATION 16 DEC 41 - 10 JUN 45

file
ph

1. STRENGTH AND ACTION OF JAPS ON LANDING

On the 16 Dec 41 about 500 JAPS landed at K BELAIT and SERIA. Some 4 or 5 days later, a force of about 1000 passed through presumably on their way to BRUNEI - LABUAN etc. For about a fortnight there was constant troop movements, destination and strength unknown.

The landing party cut off wires (telephone), rounded up Mr TURNER (Assist Resident) and Mr FLEMICH (?) (Forest officer), broke open the locked Company houses, and generally damaged or destroyed furniture and helped themselves freely with provisions etc stored in the warehouses. They did not molest womenfolk except in one or two isolated instances. No hardships worth mentioning were inflicted on the civilians at the outset.

2. SUBSEQUENT CONTROL OF:-

(a) MILITARY: In the middle part of 1942 all the occupational forces were withdrawn and replaced by a Contingent of 200 soldiers of the KAMI MURA TAI. By way of explanation KAMI MURA TAI means "The Group or party under the control or direction of the individual named KAMI MURA". In the latter part of 1944, the strength was reduced to about 100 men.

(b) CIVIL: The administration of civil affairs was carried by one or two JAP offrs, assisted by the local staff. Policing work was done by the Malay Police, with a JAP Police offr in charge.

(c) FOOD: During the first year or so of their occupation the JAPS imported large quantities of rice, and rationed it to all the inhabitants - the Company employees getting a larger share than others. When shipping position became acute i.e. from Oct 1944 rice issues were made only to Oilfield employees the others being asked to grow their own food.

They commandeered the vegetable, fish and meat supplies from the very beginning with the result only a very scanty supply was left for the needs of the local population. The entire population was forced to grow Tapioca and Sweet Potatoes.

(d) OILS: The total amount of oil lifted during occupation was kept a Military Secret and information on this score must of a necessity be a guess. In the middle part of 1944 they pumped to LUTONG about 4/5000 tons a day, declining to nil in the first quarter of 1945.

(e) RUBBER: As far as our information goes no rubber was exported from this area.

(f) FARM PRODUCTS: Japs encouraged cultivation of paddy by allotting land to cultivators subsidising them with money and forced civilians to grow vegetables, sweet potatoes, tapioca etc etc., thereby making them to a certain extent self-sufficient.

(g) PROPAGANDA: Took the form of Flag March, frequent lectures by Chief Jap offrs, big posters announcing so called victories. The presentation of 1 lb of Salt to each employee to celebrate the great Naval Victory at TAIWAN gives some indication of the form their propaganda took.

(h) EDUCATION: Only JAP language was allowed to be taught in schools (no Malay, Chinese or English). Children were taught to sing JAPANESE songs. All men were asked to learn JAPANESE language. Night schools were opened in K BELAIT and SERIA for this purpose but attendance was very poor.

(i) SHIPPING: All shipping activities were confined to MIRI - LUTONG area. Ships called regularly and on certain occasions in large numbers during the year 1942/43. During 1944 shipping service dropped considerably and during 1945 it ceased to exist.

(j) PW'S AND CIVIL: (Military, European and Indian)

About 200 INDIAN PWs were brought from KUCHING in March 42 and used as a labour corps. As a result of very inhuman treatment many died of starvation and others succumbed to Beri-Beri and other diseases. No clothing was provided, they had perforce to wear gunny sacks and bags. For no reason they were thrashed and kicked during working hours. All the offrs of the INDIAN PWs were locked up in gaol in April 1945 and right up to end of May were taken daily to MP's Office morning and evening for thrashing. The Chief Officer died after 3 or 4 days after his release from jail. Rest of the offrs were taken along with AUSTRALIAN internees. 30 of the able-bodied PWs were taken to LABI a month before the Australian landing. Rest of PWs were murdered on or about 14 Jun 45 a few however managed to escape. A few PWs joined the Local Defence force. They escaped on 10th Jun when the oil wells were set on fire

(k) EUROPEANS: The Assistant Resident Mr TURNER and Forest Officer Mr FLEMING, were taken prisoner on the day the JAPS landed. They were made to walk on the road in heavy rain in their pygamas - later they were locked up in a club kitchen quarters. Subsequently they were sent to MIRI enroute to KUTCHING.

One Doctor Clerk, an AUSTRALIAN was brought from BUFFORD and worked for a few months in K BELAIT Govt Hospital. Then he was taken to KUCHING.

During 1945 about 40 AUSTRALIAN internees were brought and kept across the BELAIT River. Six or seven of them died in K BELAIT through natural causes it is beleived. They were subsequently taken away (during first week of Jun 1945) together with the INDIAN PWs offrs - destination unknown.

(l) CIVILIANS: Two civilians (Indian dresser named SAIWAI SINGH and Indian watchman named TARA SINGH) were murdered along with the other Indian PWs. Two Indians and one Chinese named BELWANT SINGH, GAKAL SINGH and CHONG FAH respectively were taken away by MPs.

The JAPS were looking for more local victims before they retreated to the interior but as the majority of them hid themselves they could not find many of them.

(m) PROSTITUTES: Mainly composed of imported JAP and TAIWAN (roughly 20). A few JAP old ladies (former residents) ran a "Cafe-Cum-Brothel" in K BELAIT with half a dozen Chinese and Dusun prostitutes. A few DYAK prostitutes were imported from SIBU.

(n) IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CIVILIAN LABOUR: All oilfield company employees sent away to SINGAPORE prior to the outbreak of the war were brought back.

A few hundred JAVANESE labourers were recruited from JAVA for oilfield work. No labourers were exported to other countries.

(o) ATROCITIES: The atrocities committed by the JAPS were many to enumerate in detail.

If one accidentally failed to salute a JAP he was generously slapped

If one was suspected of pro-allied sympathies he was brought before the MPs and tortured. Third degree methods were used to extract information respecting other sympathisers.

If one interested oneself in the progress of the war or showed any undue interest in JAP war news he was suspected and his movements were closely watched and he ere long found himself locked up in the MPs office where he underwent untold tortures.

If one accidentally picked up a leaflet dropped by Allied planes severest punishment was meted out not only to the person who picked it up but also to those who were unfortunately in the neighbourhood

The JAPS often forcibly took from local people gramaphones, records, watches, furniture etc., without any compensation. During the earlier part of this year they started confiscating pigs, fowls, vegetables, paddy etc., from the inhabitants.

If a vindictive person made a false report against another individual the MPs relying on his words alone torture the accused without questioning or trial.

The MPs were generally beastly crowd and any one who had the misfortune to fall into their hands underwent severest torture the like of which only heard of in Gestapo infested Countries of Europe. Their treatment of war prisoners was extremely cruel and their behaviour throughout the period of occupation was terribly brutal.