

10
TOP SECRET

OBOE SIX

NOTES ON DIVISIONAL COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE AT 1 AUST CORPS AT 261500I

1. Present

Admiral ROYAL and Staff	PMLO
GOC 9 Aust Div	CRA
GSO I	CRE
GSO II	CO 9 Aust Div Sigs
GSO III (Int)	CO Boat Bn 593 EB and SR
AA and QMG	S3 727 Amphibian Tractor Bn

2. Object

To reach initial agreement on the general frame work of operation OBOE SIX to allow planning to proceed forthwith on a firm basis.

3. Introduction by GOC

(a) GOC gave outline appreciation of situation and outlined the task allotted to 9 Aust Div.

(b) In view of the long distances over water involved in the operation, small craft in the objective area will be essential for tactical movement and re-supply.

(c) GOC outlined enemy strength and locations and 9 Aust Div force order of battle.

(d) Air

Targets for bombing prior to Z minus 5 have been requested.

(e) LVTs

Planning shows that it is most desirable that two companies of amphibious tractors be allotted. If two companies are allotted, they will have to be returned to MOROTAI in time for operation OBOE T.O.

(f) ESB

Planning shows two boat companies will be necessary. Previous experience has been that wastage in these craft is relatively high when used continuously.

(g) LCTs

In view of long distances of re-supply a number of LCTs would be required in the objective area.

4. Plan

GOC outlined the 9 Aust Div plan. At present it is intended that assault landings of both brigades take place simultaneously.

5. Owing to the short time available, planning must proceed with all possible speed.

Cond 10 fl
8m 10 fl
(4) 10 fl
Sc 10 fl
MLO 28/4

6. Decisions reached on points raised by 9 Aust Div

- (a) Beaches, GREEN, RED, and BROWN are satisfactory to the Navy for assault landing. BLUE BEACH is being investigated further. WHITE BEACH is suitable only for LVTs.
- (b) Naval support available - 4 cruisers, 16 to 18 destroyers. Of these, 4 cruisers and 8 destroyers would be available for naval bombardment.
- (c) Shipping
 - (i) Navy understands USS "TITANIA" is allotted in addition to two AKA. "TITANIA" could carry only 300 short tons cargo.
 - (ii) Navy agree that LCT can be towed to TARAKAN and proceed under own power to OBOE SIX.
 - (iii) LSD and LST available for one turn round only. LSI, AKA, APD available for initial trip only. LSM, LCI and support ships available until completion subsequent coastwise operations. Any craft required for coastwise operations must come from OBOE SIX allotment. Craft to be released on completion of designated coastwise operations.
 - (iv) If two LST required for coastwise operations in objective area, they would have to be released when remainder LST complete their turnaround (see sub paragraph 6 (iii) above).
 - (v) A question of signal communications required on alternative HQ ships and which ships could accommodate same, is to be investigated by signal officers of 9 Aust Div and Navy.

7. Navy suggests :-

- (a) Additional LVT be requested from higher authority in addition to those allotted for OBOE operations.
- (b) That definite assurance be sought as to the allotment of two AKA mentioned in 1 Aust Corps Staff Study.
- (c) That dive bombers from ZAMBOANGA would be useful for task during assault landing.
- (d) That naval bombardment of BRUNEI would NOT be very effective owing to long range.

8. With regard to subsidiary landing projected to take place by 24 Aust Inf Bde on BLUE BEACH, Navy consider that it may be preferable to neutralise HAMILTON POINT area by air and naval bombardment during the landing on BROWN BEACH for a period of say 1½ hours. Following this, subsidiary landing could then be effected.

9. It was agreed that a tentative landing diagram be submitted to the Navy prior to their departure on OBOE ONE.

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GS 9 Aust Div

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List "Z"