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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. 789/4/4

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA"

6th July, 1945.

SECRET.

FROM : Commander Task Unit 78.2.2
TO : Commander Seventh Amphibious Force (C.T.G. 78)
VIA : Commander Task Unit 78.2
SUBJECT ^{EC} : Balik-Papan Operations, Action Reports of Ships of
Task Unit 78.2.2
ENCLOSURES: (A) Action Report by H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" - p.2
(B) Action Report by H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA" - p.8
(C) Action Report by H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" - p.12
(D) Action Report by A.K.A. (13) "TITANIA" - p.14
(E) Action Report by L.S.D. (3) "CARTER HALL" - p.16
REFERENCE : Commander Seventh Amphibious Force Confidential
letter Serial 0563 dated 10th March, 1945.

Submitted herewith Action Reports for Amphibious
Assault on Balik-Papan 1st July, 1945.

2. Under the prevailing weather conditions it is considered that all ships performed their tasks with great credit.
3. Boat's crews exhibited good skill and judgement in landing the assault troops.
4. All cargo was discharged in excellent time.
5. Since the preparation of reports by the A.L.S.Is (Enclosures A, B and C) correspondence has been received from C.T.G. 78.1 drawing attention to CominCh Rest. Serial 3605, 16 April, 1945, regarding the use of code words. This letter is not held but A.L.S.Is have been instructed to omit code names in future reports.

A. K. S. S. S.
CAPTAIN R.A.N.R. (S)

COMMANDER TASK UNIT 78.2.2

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. 189/6/4

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H.M.A.S. "MANOORA"

1st July, 1945.

FROM : The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".
TO : Commander Seventh Amphibious Force (C.T.F. 78)
VIA : (1) Commander Task Unit 78.2.2
(2) Commander Task Group 78.2
SUBJECT : Action Report of OBOE TWO, The Amphibious Assault on
Balik-Papan, Borneo. Fox Day 1st July, 1945.
ENCLOSURES : (A) Report by Executive Officer, H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" - p. 4
(B) Report by Wave Leader, Wave 7 (First Wave from "MANOORA")
(C) Cargo carried and scheule of Unloading. - p. 6 p. 5

All times given are Item (-9 hours).

PART 1.

STAGING AT MOROTAI.

14th June H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" arrived Morotai from Labuan (Oboe Six) and anchored in berth C15 at 1655.

16th June Weighed anchor at 0639 and proceeded alongside Tanker "MINK" for diesel fuel. Completed fuelling at 1005, cast off and returned to anchorage, being anchored at 1037.

17th June Received fresh water.

18th June Divers from H.M.A.S. "PLATYPUS" at "MANOORA" clearing weed and marine growth from underwater gratings and fittings.

19th June 9 A.I.F. Signalmen onboard installing W/T sets for Army use. at 2225 commenced loading Army cargo from a L.C.T. at Number 2 hatch.

20th June Loading cargo as available from L.S.Ms and L.C.Ts. Total cargo loaded 220 short tons unit stores and equipment also 9 in number 3 ton trucks and 23 jeeps and trailers. Exchanged two old L.C.V.Ps for others from Morotai Boat Pool.

21st June At 1430 commenced embarking troops by Ship's L.C.V.Ps from L.C.Is standing by. Total troops embarked 81 Officers and 1156 other ranks of the 2nd 16th Battalion 21st Brigade 7th Australian Division under Brigadier I. Dougherty, A.I.F. also 5 War correspondents.

22nd June All troops exercised at Net Stations and Debarkation Drills.

23rd June At 1339 weighed anchor and proceeded in Sortie Order with Oboe Two Attack Force for full scale rehearsal. At 1500 formed Cruising Disposition One, course and speeds as indicated by C.T.G. 78.2, Rear Admiral A.G. Noble, U.S. Navy in A.G.C. "WASATCH".

24th June At 0547 executed "DEPLOY". At 0555 H hour announced as 0900 instead of 0815.

At 0705 stopped engines in Transport Area and proceeded to land the landing force in accordance with OBOE TWO Plan. All waves proceeded from Ship except one L.C.M.(3) in 13th wave (Ramp wire stranded). Commenced re-embarking troops and hoisting boats as they returned from beach area.

At 1235 proceeded with Transport Unit (T.U.78.2.2) H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA" "WESTRALIA" A.K.A. "TITANIA" and L.S.D. "CARTER HALL" to return to Morotai, speed 14 knots.

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2

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" letter 189/6/4 dated 1/7/45.

ACTION REPORT OF OBOE TWO OPERATIONS.

Page 2

24th June (Continued) At 1422 entered south channel and anchored in C14 berth at 1451.

25th June A.M. Commander R.S. Pearson R.A.N., Group Captain Leleu R.A.A.F. and Squadron Leader Lear R.A.A.F. joined ship as observers. P.M. Commander A.H. Green R.A.N. joined ship.

26th June At 1330 weighed anchor and proceeded in Sortie Order with OBOE TWO Attack Force C.T.G. 78.2 under Rear Admiral A.G. Noble U.S. Navy in A.G.C. "WASATCH". At 1455 formed Cruising Disposition One, speed 5 knots. At 1611 with all the Attack Force and Screen in station proceeded at 7.5 knots.

26th June - 1st July. Generally fine weather with smooth seas was experienced throughout the passage to Balikpapan which was uneventful, air cover being provided by R.A.A.F. and 13th U.S. Air Force.

1st July. "DEPLOY" was executed at 0553 and at 0712 let go anchor in transport area and commenced lowering all boats and landing the landing force.

All waves and troops were clear of the ship by 0853.

Commenced discharging cargo at 0940.

By 1608 all cargo was discharged and boats were hoisted and ship ready to sail at 1718.

Weighed at 1921 and proceeded with H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA" "WESTRALIA" A.K.A. "TITANIA" and L.S.D.(3) "CARTER HALL" in company for return to Morotai, speed 14 knots. Escorts 3 A.P.Ds "LLOYD" "LIDDLE" and "DIACHENKO".

PARTS II, III, IV and V not applicable.

PART VI.

CASUALTIES.

During the Assault on Balikpapan 17 casualties were embarked from the beach also three parachuting R.A.A.F. airmen (uninjured) from a damaged Liberator.

No casualties were suffered by any of the ship's personnel.

At 2100 1st July S.X. 31568 Private R.L. Simmons 2nd 16th Battalion A.I.F. died of wounds received in action.

At 2325, 1st July 391 66 426 Sergeant R.G. Ullman 727 A.T.B. (U.S.A.) died of wounds received in action.

The bodies will be buried at sea at 0900 2nd July.

PERSONNEL.

The performance of all personnel was of the highest order. Wave Guide leaders did an excellent job in shepherding their waves in to the line of departure and to the beach. Despite enemy gunfire all waves arrived at scheduled times, landed troops, and returned safely.

A. Pearson
A/CAPTAIN. R.A.N.R.(S)

COMMANDER TASK UNIT 78.2.2.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

H.M.A.S. "Manoora".....Ist. July 1945.

-- OBSERVATIONS ON OBOE TWO OPERATION --
-- BALIKPAPAN - IST. JULY, 1945. --

All boats were clear of ship in usual time of 19 minutes.
This was done without any delays.

Embarked Troops took longer going down the nets than allowed.
This was due to choppy conditions of sea, and boat lines carrying away.

LCMs provided by E.B. & S. Unit for Eighth Wave, were late coming alongside, and did not come together. These also had difficulty remaining alongside, and "Manoora" had to supply several lines. The Eighth Wave consequently was delayed for some considerable time, and held up succeeding waves. However, these waves managed to make up the time, and were on time at Line of Departure.

Due to this delay, it was not possible to keep a record of times of departure of the succeeding waves, as whenever a net became vacant, the next boat was called in.

CARGO: Several long delays occurred, mainly at No.2 Hatch, securing craft alongside. Considering the movement in the craft, cargo was discharged in a creditable manner.

2/LCVPs became flooded, when beached, through the ramps. One was towed back and though an effort was made to salvage the other, it could not be got off the beach.

The ships portable salvage pump was brought into use to empty the boat which was brought back. This pump failed badly, and would not lift the water, despite the fact, that a Foot Valve had been fitted on the suction line by the ship's staff. It is recommended that a more suitable pump be obtained in lieu, as this pump is also required in the ship's Damage Control Organisation.

(Sgd.) J. Simpson,
Lieut. Commander R.A.N.R.(S).,
EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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4

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

H.M.A.S. "MANOORA"

1st JULY, 1945.

OBOE TWO OPERATIONS - AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT ON BALIK - PAPAN.

REPORT OF WAVE LEADER, WAVE 7 - FIRST WAVE FROM H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

Boats were lowered on arrival in the Transport Area in an unpleasant sea and swell, (Beaufort 3 1). A high standard of seamanship was displayed by coxswains in controlling their unwieldy craft particularly in loading the assault troops.

2. The swept channel was clearly defined with marker buoys: an excellent piece of work on the part of the survey vessels and minesweepers.

3. Approximately 1,000 yards before passing through the L.S.T. area on the way to the Line of Departure, the wave received unwelcome, and for some minutes undivided attention from a three inch shore gun, the projectiles from which landed uncomfortably close on both sides of the boats in column, fortunately no casualties resulted. No further interference was experienced and the wave reached the Line of Departure intact and was despatched on time.

4. Except for a temporary lapse by the right hand flank after going some 200 yards, the formation was good. Boats beached safely and allowed the troops to land dry shod and none the worse for their long trip from the ship.

5. All boats retracted and departed for the ship followed by intermittent enemy mortar fire.

L. J. Cantwell

L. J. CANTWELL
LIEUTENANT R.A.N.R.

ENCLOSURE (B)

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5

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

2/16 Bn. 21 Bde. 7 Aust. Div.

1 AUST. LANDING SHIP DET. RAE.
A.I.F.

OBOE 2. BALIKPAPAN. DUTCH BORNEO.

"F" DAY LANDING 1 JUL 45.

SUMMARY OF UNLOADING - H.M.A.S. "MANOORA".

<u>NO 2 HOLD.</u>	<u>ASSAULT WAVES.</u>	<u>GROSS WEIGHT</u>	<u>COMMENCED</u>	<u>FINISHED.</u>
<u>HEAVY GEAR.</u>				
6 Lifts.	1 D4 Tractor.		0755	
	2 Jeeps.			
	2 Trailers.			
	2 sleds.	20 1/2 Tons		0823
		20 1/2 Tons	TOTAL TIME....	28 Mins.
			ACTUAL WORKING TIME.....	28 Mins.

6 Lifts - 20 1/2 tons in 28 Mins.

GENERAL DISCHARGE.

<u>HEAVY GEAR.</u>				
9 Lifts	6 3 Ton trucks.		0952	
	3 3 Ton Water Trlrs.	58 1/2 Tons		
<u>LIGHT GEAR.</u>				
6 Lifts	3 Jeeps	6 3/4 Tons		
	3 Trailers			
66 Lifts	Bridging	69 1/2 Tons		1607
		134 1/2 Tons	TOTAL TIME..	6 Hrs. 15 Mins
			LOST TIME	1 " 33 "
			ACTUAL WORKING TIME.	4 Hrs 42 Mins.

81 Lifts - 134 1/2 Tons in 4 Hours 42 Minutes.

TOTAL DISCHARGE.

87 Lifts - 155 Tons - 5 Hours 10 Minutes.
3 1/2 Minutes per Lift - 30 Tons per hour.

NO 3 HOLD.

<u>GENERAL DISCHARGE.</u>				
62 Lifts.	Supplies and Kit Bags	58 Tons	1055	
	Bridging	25 Tons		1557
		83 Tons	TOTAL TIME...	5 Hrs. 2 Mins.
			LOST TIME...	11 Mins.
			ACTUAL WORKING TIME.	4 Hrs. 51 Mins.

62 Lifts - 83 Tons in 4 Hours. 51 Minutes.
17 Tons per hour - 4 3/4 Minutes per Lift.

Same Bridging loaded No 2, unloaded at No 3.

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6

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PAGE 2.

NO 4 HOLD.

ASSAULT WAVES.

10 Lifts. 5 Jeeps.
5 Trailers.

GROSS WEIGHT	COMMENCED	FINISHED.
11 1/2 Tons	0747	0825
11 1/2 Tons	TOTAL TIME	38 Mins.
	LOST TIME	6 "
ACTUAL WORKING TIME.		32 Mins.

10 Lifts - 11 1/2 Tons in 32 Minutes.

GENERAL DISCHARGE.

25 Lifts 13 Jeeps
12 Trailers
63 Lifts Unit Equipment

28 1/2 Tons	1033	
54 1/2 "		1445
83 1/2 Tons	TOTAL TIME..4 Hrs.	12 Mins.
	LOST TIME	34 "
ACTUAL WORKING TIME.		3 Hrs. 38 Mins.

88 Lifts - 83 1/2 Tons in 3 Hours 38 Minutes.
23 Tons per Hour - 2 1/2 Minutes per Lift.

TOTAL DISCHARGE.

98 Lifts - 94 1/2 Tons in 4 Hours 10 Minutes.
23 Tons per Hour - 2 1/2 Minutes per Lift.

GRAND TOTAL OF DISCHARGE.

247 Lifts - 332 1/2 Tons in 4 Hours. 42 Minutes.

72 Tons per Hour.

LOST TIME.- Waiting for craft to come alongside.

TONNAGE per hour reduced because of Bridging.

Thurman L.
Capt.
OC 1 Australian Landing Ship
Detachment RAE-AIF

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7

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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA"
Date 2 July, 1945 Reference No. 01293/26/191
To COMMANDER TASK FORCE 78 via (i) C.T.U.78.2.2 (ii) Commander Task Group 78.2. (iii) Commander Task Group 78.1
Subject ACTION REPORT - OBOE TWO - H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA"

The following Action Report is submitted for information.

At Morotai - 115 Officers and 1152 Other Ranks were embarked. 361½ tons of cargo loaded comprising 24 Jeeps, 22 trailers, 2 Anti-tank guns, 6 2½ ton trucks and 246½ tons of Engineers stores and equipment.

Tuesday 26th. June.

At 1325 "Kanimbala" weighed anchor and proceeded from Morotai Harbour with Oboe Two Attack Group passing Point Able at 1405. At 1457 ships forming into Cruising Disposition One and at 1518 large transports in station. Ships in Company U.S.S. "Wasatch", H.M.A.S. "Manoora", "Westralia", U.S.S. "Titanica", "Carter Hall", L.S.T.'s, L.C.I.'s, L.S.M.'s and escort screen as in Task Organisation Op. Plan 6-45. From 1550-1652 SCREEN carrying out A/A firing practice.

1840 - Dusk action stations.

Wednesday 27th. June.

0547 - Position by Loran 2° 30'N. 126° 43½'E.
0835 - Siau Island bearing 283° 63½ miles distant.
0910 - Tagulandang Island bearing 259° 52 miles distant.
1147 - P.O. 610 alongside starboard quarter to pass despatch bag.
Noon position 2° 34½'N, 126° 02'E. Barometer 1009.5.
Temperatures - dry bulb 85°, wet bulb 81°, sea 84. Clear and cloudy sky, slight sea.
1400 - Tahoelandang Peak bearing 240°, 28 miles distant.
1730 - Mount Api bearing 357° 15½ miles distant.
1846 - Dusk action stations.
1900 - Pasigi Island abeam to port 9½ miles distant.
2100 - Makalehi Is. bearing 040° 21 miles distant.
2230 - Roeang Is. bearing 102° 40 miles distant.

Thursday 28th. June.

0616 - Dawn action stations.
0715 - Position by Loran 2° 31'N, 125° 28'E.
Noon position 2° 31'N, 122° 54'E. Barometer 1009.8.
Temperatures - dry bulb 79°, wet bulb 76°, sea 85°. Generally cloudy, good visibility.
1545 - Mt. Kanji bearing 199°, 98 miles distant.
Mt. Dondo bearing 174°, 97 miles distant.
1855 - Dusk action stations.

Friday 29th. June.

0600 - Guns crews stand to.
1040 - Task Group 78.4 sighted astern on horizon.
Carriers - U.S.S. "Gilbert Is.", "Black Island." "Guwannee".
Cruisers - U.S.S. "Phoenix", "Boise".
Destroyer and Destroyer Escorts - U.S.S. "Helm", "Cloues", "Mitchell", "Kyne", "Lemons", "Donaldson".

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- 2 -

Friday 29th. June. (Continued)

Noon position - $1^{\circ} 52'N$, $12^{\circ} 28'E$. Barometer 1010.5.
Temperatures - dry bulb 84° , wet bulb 82° , sea 86° . Wind SSW.3, Very good
visibility. Sea slight to smooth.
1645 - Echelon Oboe - Two - L in station astern of formation.
1902 - Dusk action stations.

Saturday. 30th June.

0616 - Position by Loran $00^{\circ} 04'N$, $118^{\circ} 50'E$.
0640 - Dawn action stations.
0810 - U.S. Cruiser and 2 Destroyers sighted bearing 110° 15 miles distant
on parallel course. course 220° .
1154 - U.S.S. P.C. 610 alongside starboard side aft to pass despatch bag.
Noon position - $0^{\circ} 33'S$ $118^{\circ} 21'E$. Barometer 1010.2.
Temperatures - dry bulb 82° , wet bulb 80° , sea 85° . Wind SW.5. Very good
visibility. Rough sea.
1912 - Dusk action stations.

Sunday 1st July

0100 - Heavy rain squalls, visibility Nil.
0200 - A/A fire observed bearing 325°
0400 - A/A fire observed bearing 322°
0645 - Operational Action stations.
0700 - Naval bombardment commenced.
0707 - In Transport Area.
0709 - Port anchor let go in 10 fathoms in designated anchorage.
0710 - Away all boats.
0720 - All boats away, commenced disembarking troops and equipment.
0840 - 8th wave left "Titania"
0945 - 8th wave at line of departure.
0920 - 1107 - L.S.M.38 loading alongside.
1040 - One Destroyer bearing 001° straddled by shore fire.
1100 - 1549 L.C.T. 1306 loading alongside.
1105 - All vehicles discharged.
1125 - "Dumb" barge secured port side No.4 Hatch.
1455 - "Dumb" barge secured starboard side No.2 Hatch.
L.C.V.P. "K18" containing 7 casualties hoisted
1645 - "Dumb" barge (PB10) slipped.
1715 - Received one casualty from L.C.V.P. "AK13 - 18".
1750 - Mortar fire falling in Area Charlie.
L.C.V.P. "K21" abandoned on shore; unable to salvage.
1920 - All boats hoisted.
1924 - Anchor aweigh and at 1930 "Kanimbla" forming Cruising Disposition
4 T.U. Ships in company "Manoora" "Kanimbla" "Westralia" "Titania"
"Carter Hall" escorted by A.P.D.'s U.S.S. "Alex Diachenko" "Liddle"
"Lloyd".
2000 - U.S.S. "Titania" assumed guide of fleet. H.M.A.S. "Manoora"s Gyro
compass out of action.
2140 - Position by Loran $01^{\circ} 19'S$ $117^{\circ} 19'E$.

Disembarkation and Unloading

All troops disembarking were off the ship at 1600. Working Time to
unload guns and vehicles was 2 hours 41 minutes. All cargo unloaded at 1623.
Working Time to unload all cargo and equipment was 5 hours 47 minutes.

Behaviour of Embarked Troops

During the period the troops were on board their conduct and behaviour
was exemplary.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

- 3 -

Abandon Ship and Net Exercises

Whilst on passage towards Assault area embarked troops were frequently exercised during daylight and dark hours at their abandon ship stations and in net drill.

Medical

Seven Other Ranks personnel of A.I.F. embarked were unable to disembark owing to illness.

Sapper S.F. Howarth VX79115
Private F. Bausch VX 130943
" S.D. Griffiths NX 130218
" R.J. Smythe VX 120210
" J.M. Stone QX 31122
" H.E. Tribe NX 135532
" R. Barker NX 146244

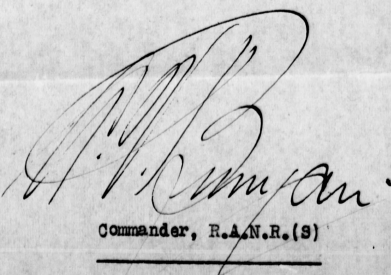
Eight surgical cot cases were received on board, 2 on dangerously ill list and 2 on seriously ill list.

Disembarkation and Unloading at Yellow beach

Had an alternate plan not been made in the ship to meet the situation, early waves would have been held up owing to late arrival of boats allotted to "Kanimbla" from other ships. In view of this, it is submitted that where possible early waves should be made up from boats of own ship. All boat waves from "Kanimbla" arrived on line of departure and beached at correct time. Only half of each wave could beach at one time owing to obstructions remaining on the beach. Conditions on the beach at this time (approximately H.W.) were favourable and no boat experienced any difficulty in retracting. Some enemy opposition was encountered in the form of what appeared to be mortar fire and some boats were harassed by straddling and near misses; there were no casualties to boats' crews or army personnel whilst in the boats. Medical boats did their work quickly and efficiently.

Owing to the non-arrival of L.C.T. 1296 and a self-propelled barge it was considered necessary, in order to expedite discharge, to use own boats for discharging small drums of petrol. As boats were beached on an ebbing tide difficulty was experienced in retracting owing to obstructions on the beach. Petrol was unloaded on beach assisted by L.V.T.'s whose crews gave excellent co-operation. All boats were got off the beach with the exception of L.C.V.P. "K21" which was unsalvageable and was handed over to the custody of the Beachmaster.

Boats' crews working parties and Landing Ship Detachment personnel performed their duties in a cheerful and creditable manner.


Commander, R.A.N.R.(S)

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14

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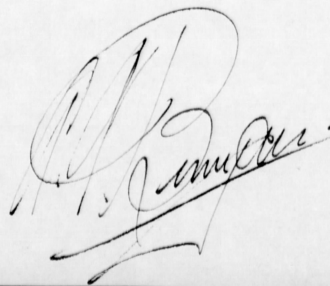
H.M.A.S. "KANIMBLA",
3rd July, 1945.

Enclosure (a) to Letter No. 01293/26/191 dated 2nd July, 1945

The following are names of Army casualties received
on board immediately after the initial assault.

SX 6090	Lieutenant C. Pudney Subsequently died 1850 Item 2nd July. <u>Cause of Death</u> : perforating G.S.W. Thorax and Right Arm. <u>Burial</u> : 1000 Item Tuesday 3rd July, 1945, in position latitude 02° 22' North longitude 124° 12' East. Burial service conducted by Commander Andrew Veitch Bunyan, Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Seagoing), with honours, in accordance with King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions.
NX 175595	Private J.K. Houlahan Seriously ill list.
SX 20027	Private L. Julian Seriously ill list.
NX 175308	Private W.D. Crawford Dangerously ill list.
VX 74119	I/Sergeant S.V. Hucker
QX 35945	Private R.C. Carrie
QX 43383	Sergeant C.B. Christensen
NX 104252	Corporal E.S. Kain
QX 49192	Private H.H. Kay.

15



11

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Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. 187/1.

2 JUL 1945

From: The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA".
To: Commander Task Force 78.
Via: (1) Commander Task Unit 78.2.2.
(2) Commander Task Group 78.2.
Copy to: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.
Subject: ACTION REPORT - H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" - BALIKPAPAN
OPERATION 1ST JULY, 1945.
References: (1) Com. 7th Phib's ltr Ser. 0563 dated 10th March, 1945.
(2) C.T.U. 78.2.2's. despatch D.T.G. 020020 July, 1945.

PART 1.

1. On Tuesday 19th June, 1945 at Morotai H.M.A.S. "WESTRALIA" commenced loading cargo and military equipment of 2/27th Infantry Battalion, 7th Division, A.I.F., in preparation for the Oboe Two Operation. Loading was finally completed on Wednesday 20th., a total of 250 tons of cargo, 23 Jeeps and 23 Trailers being loaded.

2. On Thursday 21st. 86 Officers and 865 Other Ranks of the 2/27th Infantry Battalion were embarked.

3. "WESTRALIA" proceeded from Morotai on Saturday 23rd June, at 1327 as part of the Oboe Two Attack Group under the command of Rear-Admiral A.G. Noble, U.S.N. in U.S.S. "Wasatch" (Commander Task Group 78.2) to carry out a rehearsal of the landing operation. After sailing completely around Morotai Island, the rehearsal was carried out on Sunday morning 24th June. I returned to Morotai on Sunday afternoon where I came to anchor at 1515.

4. At 1326 on Tuesday 26th "WESTRALIA" again proceeded from Morotai as part of the Oboe Two Attack Group, this time bound for Balikpapan, Dutch Borneo, where an assault landing was to be carried out.

5. The passage proceeded without incident and orders were given to deploy at 0600 on 1st July, and I eventually came to anchor in Transport Area "Able" at 0712. "Away all boats" was ordered at 0714 and disembarkation of troops commenced in preparation for the assault.

6. The Naval bombardment commenced at 0700 and appeared to be most effective although a large pall of smoke covered the target area for most of the time. At 0813 B. 24's dropped bombs on the beach defences and 0823 bombs were dropped on the town area. Huge columns of smoke and flame could be seen rising as the result of this bombardment.

7. The first wave of Assault troops landed on Green Beach at 0856 ("H" hour being 0900) and at 0904 "WESTRALIA'S" first wave which was the third of actual assault, landed. The ferry service of troops and cargo then commenced and with the aid of L. SM's, L. C.T.'s and dumb lighters, "WESTRALIA" was completely discharged by 1808 on 1st July.

8. At 1927 on the same day I proceeded to sea in company with U.S. Ships "Titania", "Carter Hall" and H.M.A. Ships "MANOORA", "KANIMBLA", escorted by three U.S. A.P.D.'s, the destination being Morotai.

PARTS II, III, IV, AND V, NOT APPLICABLE.

8 03002

(16)

12

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

- 2 -

PART VI.

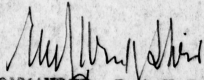
9. The Assault waves met light Mortar and Machine Gun fire on their way into the beach, but no casualties were suffered by "WESTRALIA".

10. Fifteen Army casualties were received on board, comprising eight stretcher cases and seven walking, all of whom were treated most efficiently and expeditiously by the Ship's Medical Staff under Surgeon Lieutenant Commander J.S. Guest, R.A.N.R. and the A.I.F. Surgical Team under Major D.R. Leslie, A.I.F.

11. The entire Ship's Company performed well during the Operation, particularly the boat's crews, whose handling of the landing craft in choppy seas was excellent and the Ship's Detachment, who had an arduous task unloading cargo on to the dumb lighters, which were moving considerably in the swell.

12. The laudatory despatch received from C.T.G.78.2 was greatly appreciated by all Hands.

2nd July, 1945.


A/COMMANDER, R.A.N.R. (S).
COMMANDING OFFICER.

8 03002

(17)

13

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

AKA13/AL6-3

Serial 017

C O N F I D E N T I A L

U.S.S. TITANIA

Care Fleet Post Office,

San Francisco, California.

3 July 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, J.M.A.S. MANOORA, (C.T.U. 78.2.2).
(2) Commander Amphibious Group EIGHT, (C.T.G. 78.2).
(3) Commander Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet, (C.T.F. 78).
(4) Commander SEVENTH Fleet, (C.T.F. 77).

Subject: Balikpapan Operation - Report on.

Reference: (a) Article 762, U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.
(b) Com7thFleet Conf. ltr. file FE25/AL6-3(1), serial
0563 of 10 March 1945.

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), the following is submitted.

2. The TITANIA sailed from Morotai on 26 June 1945, in company with C.T.G. 78.2, under the immediate command of the Commanding Officer, J.M.A.S. MANOORA (C.T.U. 78.2.2) and arrived in the assault area on "T" Day (1 July 1945).

3. The TITANIA sailed from the assault area with T.U. 78.2.2, at 1930, 1 July 1945.

4. The troops transported on board consisted of:

- (a) Eleven (11) officers and two hundred and fourteen (214) enlisted of the First Corps of the Royal Australian Army.
- (b) Two (2) officers and forty-five (45) enlisted of Company "A", 593rd U.S. Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.
- (c) One (1) civilian, attached to U.S. Army G.H.Q., Engineer Intelligence Section.

5. The cargo consisted of five hundred seventy-five (575) tons of loaded vehicles, unit supplies, high explosives and engineering equipment.

6. Six (6) LCM's of the U.S. Army were transported in place of six (6) of the TITANIA's LCM's and left in the Balikpapan area.

7. The TITANIA itself was not under enemy fire. Our landing boats were under mortar and machine gun fire as they landed on RED Beach with Fifth (5th) and Eighth (8th) Waves. Our guns did not fire on the enemy.

(18)

8 03002

14

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AKA13/A16-3

U.S.S. TITANIA

Serial 017

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8. Twelve (12) of the TITANIA LCV's landed assault troops from the LST's.

M. W. Callahan
M. W. CALLAHAN.

Copy to: CominCh (direct)
ComPhibGrp 8, C.T.G. 78.2 (direct)

8 03002

(19)

15

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LSD-3/A16-3

Serial: 019

U.S.S. CARTER HALL (LSD-3)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

HLJ:law

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1 July 1945

From: Commanding Officer, U.S.S. CARTER HALL (LSD-3).
To: Commander in Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.

Via: (1) Commander Task Unit 78.2.2 (CTU 78.2.2).
(2) Commander Amphibious Group EIGHT (CTG 78.2).
(3) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force (CTG 78).
(4) Commander SEVENTH FLEET.

Subject: Action Report, U.S.S. CARTER HALL (LSD-3) - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO
Operation, 1 July 1945.

Reference: (a) Article 874(6), U.S. Navy Regulations, 1920.
(b) Com7thPhib conf. ltr., serial 0563, dtd. 3/10/45.

1. At 0000, 1 July 1945, this ship steaming in company with units of Task Group 78.2, U.S.S. WASATCH, OTC and Guide. This ship second in column three (3), 600 yards astern U.S.S. WASATCH. Cruising disposition C-1. Course 272°(T), 272° PGC, 274° PSC. Enroute Balikpapan, Borneo. Standard speed 6 knots, 72 RPM.

0130 Changed speed to standard of 5.5 knots, 66 RPM.

0420 Steaming on various courses and at various speeds, standing into Transport Area, BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO.

0538 Commenced ballasting operations.

0630 Set Condition I.

0707 Completed ballasting operations.

0712 Anchored in Transport Area off BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO.

0714 Commenced unloading operations in well.

0721 Completed unloading operations in well after discharging two J-Boats and 18 LCM's, loaded with Australian Army equipment and manned by the following units:

12 officers and 105 men 593rd Engineer Boat and Shore
Regiment, U.S. Army.

2 officers and 12 men 1st Aust. Bomb Disposal Pl. RAE,
(AIF).

- 1 -

(20)

8 03002

16

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

LSD-3/A16-3
Serial: 019

- 2 -

HLJ:law

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1 July 1945

Subject: Action Report, U.S.S. CARTER HALL (LSD-3) - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO,
Operation, 1 July 1945.

6 men	2nd Aust. Mech. Eqp. Platoon
2 men	1st Aust. Armed Wkshop, AEME.
2 men	2/1 Aust. Armed BDE, RECCE, SQN.
1 officer and 37 men	2/9 Aust. FD, COY.
1 officer and 31 men	B Sqn. 1st Aust. Armed Regt. Gp.
1 officer	Hq., 2nd Aust. Beach Group.
1 officer and 67 men	2/11 Aust. Fd. COY, RAE (AIF).
2 men	2/117 Aust. Fd. COY
2 officers and 7 men	2/6 Aust. Brigade Wkshop, AEME.
3 officers and 14 men	A Sqn., 1st Aust. Armed Regt.

0721 Commenced unballasting operations.

1025 Completed unballasting operations.

1945 Standing out of BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO. Steaming in company
with CTU 78.2.2, H.M.A.S. MANOORA, OTC and Guide. Enroute
to MOROTAI ISLAND.

2. At no time during this operation was it necessary to fire ship's
guns. There were no personnel casualties.

H.L. Jost, Jr.
H.L. JOST, JR.,
Lieut. Comdr., USNR,
Commanding Officer.

Advance copy to ComInCh.

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

File No. FE25/A16-3

Serial No. 0097A

AMPHIBIOUS GROUP EIGHT
SEVENTH FLEET
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

JUL 15 1945

SECRET

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
CTU 78.2.16 Serial 125
dated 6 July 1945

From: Commander Task Group 78.2 (Commander Amphibious Group EIGHT, SEVENTH Fleet).
To : Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Via : (1) Commander Task Force 78 (Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force).
(2) Commander Task Force 77 (Commander SEVENTH Fleet).
Subject: BALIKPAPAN Operations, Action Reports of Ships of Task Unit 78.2.2.

1. Forwarded.

2. The excellent cooperation, fine ship handling and expeditious unloading of Task Unit 78.2.2 left nothing to be desired.

A. G. Noble
A. G. NOBLE

cc: CTU 78.2.2
MANOORA (HMAS)
KANIMBLA (HMAS)
WESTRALIA (HMAS)
TITANIA (AKA 13)
CARTER HALL (LSD 3)

8 03002

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18

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

File No. FE25/ A16-3
Serial No. FF-0099

SEVENTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

FF 9249
A16-3(2)

S-E-C-R-E-T

JUL 30 1945

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to:
CTU 78.2.16 Serial 125
dated 6 July 1945.

From: Commander Task Force SEVENTY-EIGHT.
(Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force)
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Via: Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
Subject: BALIKPAPAN Operations, Action Reports of Ships
of Task Unit 78.2.2.

1. Forwarded.
2. The efficient functioning of Task Unit 78.2.2 is noted with pleasure.

Ray Tarbuck
RAY TARBUCK,
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
CTG 78.2 (ComPhibGrp 8, 7thFlt)
CTU 78.2.2 (Captain COUSIN RANR(S))
MANOORA (HMAS)
KANIMBLA (HMAS)
WESTRALIA (HMAS)
TITANIA (AKA 13)
CARTER HALL (ISD 3)

8 03002

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19

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

UNITED STATES FLEET
COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET

A16-3(2)(F-3-2/whr)

Serial 05412

F-1938 ✓
10 AUG 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on:
CTU 78.2.2, Sec. Ltr.,
No. 789/4/4, dated 6
July 1945.

REG. NO F-1938
R. S. NO 8 03002
REG. SHEET NO 177

From: Commander Seventh Fleet.
To: Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: BALIKPAPAN Operations, Action Reports of Ships
of Task Unit 78.2.2.

1. Forwarded.
2. The classification of the basic correspondence is hereby reduced to confidential.
3. The officers and men of Task Unit 78.2.2 are congratulated on their excellent performance in this important operation under conditions of great difficulty.

T. C. Kinkaid
T. C. KINKAID

Copy to:
Com7thPhibFor
ComPhibGrp 8, 7thFlt
CTU 78.2.2 (CO, HMAS MANOORA)

102 VNC SI Jit 58

RECEIVED
U.S. FLEET
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

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