

DECLASSIFIED

#65 - Battle of Java

2



Box 43

~~U. S. SECRET~~  
~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~COPY NO. 8

From - Commander-in-Chief, N.E.I. Army.

Received - 3/6/42 - Noon.

SITUATION IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 6:

ENEMY OCCUPIED LEMAHABANG, BUITENZORG, DJOIJAKARTA, MADIOEN, KEDIRI, NJANDJOEK, KERTOSONO AND IS AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF DJOMBANG. THEY VOLUNTARY EVACUATED POERWAKARTA. ENEMY BOMBARDED TJILATJAP WHERE HARBOUR AREA, THE NEWLY ARRIVED DIVE BOMBERS AND LAST FLYING BOATS WERE BURNT. ENEMY ATTACKED TJIATI PASS (NORTH OF BANDOENG) IN THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 5 WITH ARMoured CARS, MOTORISED INFANTRY AND PLANES. ATTACK WAS REPULSED WITH THE AID OF OUR LAST PLANES. OUR MILITARY AIR FORCES ARE NOW FINISHED. THE ALERT AGAINST AIR ATTACK AT BANDOENG IS CONTINUOUS. COLLAPSE OF THE DEFENSE, ALSO AS A RESULT OF EXHAUSTION, IS INEVITABLE.

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By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_

By 99 Date 10 Feb 75  
99 Date MAR 26 1975

No. 3962

Source: Not Stated  
Time Filed At Source: 1850, March 5.  
TOR: HHD 0045, March 6.  
TOR: ONI 1520, March 6.

The sinking\* of the Langley, with 32 pursuit aircraft, 30 pursuit pilots and 12 crew men on board, was a great blow. This ship was ordered to Java in consequence of the personal assurance of Admiral Helfrich that proper and suitable protection would be provided. 27 crated P-40's have been unloaded in Java from the Sea Witch, according to my information.

Pursuant to that directive of January 13 (referring to cable MX 513 of that date from General Marshall), I gave no orders to Colonel Eubank when I left Java. I was, however, entirely familiar with such orders as were issued and know that they were predicated upon instructions or orders issued by the supreme ABMA Command. Colonel Eubank is going to furnish two complete statements, which will be transmitted to you immediately. As far as communications will permit, I am in constant touch with the ABMA Command. Even to a degree which might be thought to involve an unjustified wastage of valuable personnel and equipment, every effort is being made to render assistance in Java. The Dutch are in accord with the decisions made and action taken by us. I am also in continuous contact with Australian officials and Dutch officials in Australia in an effort to assist the Dutch.

The following is the status of our bombers in Australia: 4 LB-30's on hand, none of which are operational; 12 B-17E's, in addition to those with the Navy, 4 of which are operational, but are being reserved for a special mission; all the rest being out of commission by enemy action; 2 B-17C's, both out of commission. The repair of our aircraft is being hurried as much as possible.

Concerning the possibility of further long-range bombing, it is not thought feasible to operate from Australia against enemy objectives in Java because of Japanese action against airbases along the northwest shoulder of the Australian continent. In Java there remains but a single field usable by B-17E's and this is under constant enemy ground strafing. Its use would without question result in the loss of our bombers after the performance of one mission, if not before.

With all possible dispatch, four additional reports will be transmitted. In reply to this message, which is for General Marshall, please

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date NOV 14 1973

refer to CG-XIX 26.

BRETT

\*The Langley was sunk by a Japanese bomber on February 20, 1942.

Exact Action Copy to: A.C. of S. WPD

WHD DISTRIBUTION: JIC

ONI DISTRIBUTION: SEC NAV... NAV AIDE... OF 10/11... OF 16... 16F... F-2  
F-10... F-34 (4)

THIS DESPATCH IS NOT TO BE DUPLICATED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

RETAIN OR DESTROY.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 5(E) and 5(D) or (B)

OSD letter, May 3, 1978

By RHP, NARS Date NOV 14 1973

OCS 370.2 Java (3-5-42)

**[REDACTED]**  
From - C-in-C, JAVA (3/5/42)

Received - 12:30 p.m., 3/5/42

SITUATION MARCH 4th: INCREASED FIGHTING AND INFILTRATION OF ENEMY ALONG RIVER TJISEDANE. ENEMY OCCUPIED POERWAKARTA, TJKAMPEK, KRAWANG, SOLO. DISPERSED OUR TROOPS AT KRAWANG WITH TANKS AND INFILTRATED SOUTHWARDS. BANDOENG UNDER INCREASING AERIAL BOMBARDMENTS. OUR AIR STRENGTH IS BEING USED UP. AIR ATTACK ON TJILITAP. ENEMY STRENGTH AT BODJONEGORO INCREASING. TODAY (MARCH 5) HAVE ABANDONED BATAVIA LEAVING A SCREEN BEHIND ALSO IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND SECURITY. MAYOR DECLARED BATAVIA AN OPEN TOWN.

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JCS MEMO. 1-17-78  
BY NT, DATE NOV 14 1973

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CCS 370.2 Java (3-4-42)

**[REDACTED]**  
 From - C-in-C Java (3/4/42).

Received - 4:00 p.m., 3/4/42.

CONSTANT ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITY IN BANTAM AREA POINT-S TO COMING ATTACK. OUR RENEWED REINFORCED ATTACKS ON SOEBANG AND KALIDJATI FAILED COMPLETELY BECAUSE OF CONSTANT AIR ATTACKS, WHICH WE COULD NOT OPPOSE THROUGH LACK OF FIGHTER PLANES. TROOPS DEMORALIZED AND WITHDRAWN TO NORTH EDGE OF BANDOENG PLATEAU. IN EAST JAVA THE ENEMY, AFTER OCCUPATION OF PATIH, BLORA, TJEPOE, ALSO OCCUPIED TJAROEBAH AND BODJONEGORO. M.S.S. "TAWALI" AND "JANSSEN" WITH APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN HUNDRED TO SEVENTEEN HUNDRED MEN NAVAL AND DOCKYARD PERSONNEL SAILED LAST NIGHT FROM TJILATJAP. MINELAYERS KRAKATAU AND GOUDEN LEEUW ARE READY TO CLOSE THE GAPS IN THE MINEFIELDS AT SOERABAJA. SUBMARINES K-9, K-11, K-14, K-15, K-18 AND O-19 ARE AT SEA ENROUTE TO COLOMBO, K-12 AT SOERABAJA READY TO SAIL. APART FROM TWO SQUADRONS RECONNAISSANCE PLANES (CURTIS FALCONS) AND EIGHT L 12 PLANES (WHICH ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR ACTION), ONLY A FEW BOMBERS AND ABOUT TEN FIGHTERS AVAILABLE, BUT MANY PILOTS. 27 P 40's ARE BEING ASSEMBLED, THE FIRST WILL BE READY WITHIN A FEW DAYS. IN WEST JAVA THERE ARE STILL SIX AERODROMES IN OUR HANDS. ENEMY STRENGTH IS NOW ESTIMATED AS FOLLOWS: BANTAM AREA: 4 DIVISIONS; INDRAMAJOE AREA: 1 TO 2 DIVISIONS; EAST JAVA: PROBABLY BETWEEN 2 AND 4 DIVISIONS.

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 JCS MEMO. 1-17-78  
 BY RT. DATE

NOV 14 1973

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To: Air Ministry, Whitehall

Reputed: Troopers  
 Burmaray (pass Machin)  
 A.H.Q. India  
 NONGROUP  
 Air Board Melbourne  
 BRITMAN, Washington

From: BRITAIN OPREP/8 4/3.

**IMMEDIATE.**

Daily operational summary.

1. Air to 0630Z/4.

West Java. During yesterday evening a company of pioneer battalion (blackforce) had a brisk engagement at Leuwiliang Bridge during which 2 enemy tanks were destroyed and enemy withdrew. Blackforce has one battalion astride the Leuwiliang-Buitenzorg and Buitenzorg-Batavia roads with mobile patrols on either flank. Remainder of force is concentrated in the area ready to strike. Enemy in small numbers are advancing towards Batavia.

Central Java. Dutch mobile force attacking Kalidjati was heavily divebombed and forced to withdraw and is now reorganising near Tsisoang. Another mobile force still in area south of Soebang. Report of paratroops at Bajongbong is incorrect. During air raid yesterday on Andyr A.A. claim 9 direct hits (probably 5 enemy aircraft destroyed).

East Java. Little information. Enemy continues to infiltrate in small parties and is some miles south of Tjepoe.

General. Allied attacks have been considerably hampered by ground strafing. Enemy does not appear to be pressing forward fast.

2. Air to 0030Z/4.

Operations greatly hampered by diminishing aircraft strength and serviceability difficulties resulting from bombardment of our aerodromes. Enemy raids on Andir and Pameungpeuk 3/3 resulted in one Hudson, 3 N.E.I. aircraft destroyed, 1 Falcon, 1 Glen Martin damaged. Andir unserviceable till evening. Hurricanes 232 squadron carried out ground strafing in support army throughout day 3/3 and twice attacked Kalidjati aerodrome early morning 4/3. Machine gunned aircraft on ground started big fire shot down 3 Navy OXB's, 1 probable, 1 damaged. 2 Hurricanes missing pilots safe. Highly commend work of this squadron which in Malaya and in Java has put up magnificent and sustained performance against greatly superior opposition. Now almost the only aircraft operating here. 1 N.E.I. Glen Martin also attacked Kalidjati night 3-4/3. Direct hits on 3 hangars large fires started. WESGROUP aircraft

serviceability 0030Z/4 6 Hurricanes. Ref OPREP/6  
the 2 seaplanes reported set on fire at Eretan now  
confirmed destroyed.

3. Intelligence.

34 vessels sighted Bantam Bay and 17 other  
vessels off west coast. 9 transports, 3 warships, 1  
big battleship, 2 cruisers, 1 submarine sighted west  
Puloe Babi (09° 49' south 106° 18' east).

RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff.

U.S. SECRET  
BRITISH MOST SECRET

CCS 370.24 ABDA Area  
(3-3-42)

8

From - C-in-C, ABDA Area (3/2/42).  
Received - 4:00 a.m., 3/3/42.

DECLASSIFIED  
By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_  
*JG memo 10 Feb 75*  
By 91 Date MAR 27 1975

LAST NIGHT A MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT SANK AN ENEMY LIGHT CRUISER OR BIG DESTROYER. DESTROYER WITTE DE WITZ RECEIVED A DIRECT BOMB HIT AND WAS BADLY DAMAGED AT SOERABAJA; SHE IS BEING PREPARED FOR DESTRUCTION. SUBMARINE K-10 DAMAGED BY DEPTH CHARGE, IS RETURNING TO SOERABAJA. SOERABAJA DRYDOCK COMPANY HAS PRACTICALLY BEEN DESTROYED BY ENEMY AIR RAID. NAVAL AERODROME MOROKREMBANGAN CAN STILL BE USED FOR SMALL REPAIRS; NAVAL DOCKYARD SOERABAJA, APART FROM SUBMARINE WORK SHOPS IS BEING DESTROYED, TO FREE THE N.E.I. ARMY 3RD DIVISION FROM ITS COVERING TASK AND ENABLE THIS DIVISION TO ACT OFFENSIVELY. FOUR DUTCH SUBMARINES REMAIN IN ACTION AGAINST ENEMY LANDING FLEETS ON THE NORTH COAST OF JAVA. ENEMY IN BANTAM OCCUPIED SERAND AND VICINITY; N.E.I. <sup>ARMY</sup> 1ST DIVISION IS PREPARING OFFENSIVE IN WESTERLY DIRECTION. ENEMY FROM INDRAMAJOE OCCUPIED SOEBANG AND KALIDJATI AERODROME WITH MOTORIZED INFANTRY AND TANKS. THE BRITISH COVERING TROOPS RETIRED FROM KALIDJATI WITHOUT RECONNAISSANCE AND WITHOUT FIGHTING, LEAVING A PART OF AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERY BEHIND, WITH THE RESULT THAT TEN BLENHEIM AND HUDSON BOMBERS WERE LOST; AN OFFENSIVE ACTION WITH MOTORIZED TROOPS HAS BEEN STARTED TO RETAKE THESE PLACES. TODAY A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE HAS TAKEN PLACE AGAINST ENEMY IN INDRAMAJOE; TOMORROW AN OFFENSIVE WILL BE STARTED AGAINST THIS ENEMY. DURING AIR ATTACKS AGAINST ENEMY NEAR REMBANG WE LOST ABOUT SIX PLANES, WHILE ABOUT TEN OF OUR FIGHTERS WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND BY ENEMY BOMBS. APART FROM THE RECONNAISSANCE WING, WHICH IS PRACTICALLY INTACT, THERE ARE STILL AVAILABLE TEN TO TWELVE BRITISH HURRICANES, ABOUT SEVEN BRENSTERS, TEN (?) CURTIS INTERCEPTORS, TEN TO TWELVE GLENN MARTINS, ABOUT TEN VILDEBEESTS AND THREE HUDSONS. WILL TRY TO ASSEMBLE THE PLANES WHICH HAVE BEEN LANDED AT TJILATJAP

(68)

~~U.S. SECRET~~  
~~REMARKS MUST SECRET~~

From - C-in-C, ABDA Area (3/3/42).

Received - 6:00 p.m., 3/3/42.

A NEW FLEET OF FIFTY-ONE TRANSPORTS ARRIVED AT BANTAM. ENEMY FROM BANTAM HAS REACHED TANGERANG AND LEUVILLIANG TEN MILES WEST OF BUITENZORG. ATTACK TO RETAKE SOEBANG AND KALIDJATI DURING NIGHT SECOND/THIRD MARCH FAILED BUT WILL BE RESUMED. ENEMY FROM REMBANG AREA ADVANCED AFTER BRIDGING THE RIVER AT TJEPOE, IN THE DIRECTION OF TVAROBANG PAST NGAWI. STRONG INFILTRATION IN LINE BODJONEGORO - BABAD, EAST FROM THERE NORTH OF THE RIVER NO ENEMY. SUBMARINE K-15 SANK JAP TANKER TYPE NARUTO IN BANTAM BAY. THREE THOUSAND MEN NAVAL PERSONNEL SAILED FROM TJILATJAP FOR COLOMBO. DUTCH SUBMARINES: K-15 NEAR BANTAM BAY. K-18, 0-19 OPERATING ON NORTH COAST OF JAVA. K-10 DAMAGED AT SOERABAJA. K-14 ON HER WAY TO COLOMBO FOR REPAIRS. K-9, K-11, K-12 LEAVING SOERABAJA FOR OPERATIONS JAVA SEA AREA THEN ON TO COLOMBO.

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DECLASSIFIED  
 by Authority of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jcd memo 20 Feb 75  
 By JA Date MAR 27 1975

To: AIR MIN, Whitehall  
 AIR STAFF, Wellington  
 NORGROUP MAGWE  
 AIR BOARD, Melbourne  
 B.A.D. Washington  
 A.H.Q. India

From: WESGROUP OPS33 2/3

IMMEDIATE

Java combined Intelligence summary 1/3.

Sightings of enemy Transports, Cruisers and Destroyers mostly near shore Indramajo 06° 20' S, 108° 20' E, Eretan 06° 0' S, 108° 10' E, Tamboeng Bceja 06° 49' S 111° 50' E, Merak 15° 55' S, 106° E, Kragan 06° 45' S, 111° 40' E torpedoed 06° 45' S 105° 40' E, Tambang Cogo 06° 49' S, 111° 50' E, forty miles east of Kalidjati 6° 30' S, 107° 40' E St. Nicolas Point 5° 05' S, 106° 05' E. Also two large ships possibly Cruisers 09° 53' S, 108° 36' E. Large Transport estimated 15,000 tons burned out between Rembang and Toeban.

(?Buffaloes) successfully used 50 KG fragmentation bombs in landed troops, barges, Transports. Twenty Transports with 50 or 60 landing craft successfully strafed by 6 Hurricanes (?six) Buffaloes, 10 Kittyhawks. 3 tanks on beach set on fire. One Navy 0 shot down. Two enemy seaplanes set on fire. Column 200/300 cyclists almost wiped out also small groups on railway wiped out. Troops on road machine gunned. Dutch ship TAWALI and Dutch Tanker AGUSTINA attacked by Jap aircraft. Dutch ship ENGANO bombed reported sinking. Sourabaya Lightship and Minesweeper machine gunned 28/2. Again raided 1/3. Considerable damage property 30 casualties. Malang aerodrome bombed, no casualties, damage barracks only. Djombang Aerodrome machine gunned many grounded aircraft damaged. Prior to enemy landing Eretan red rockets and fire balls fired. Before landing 9 boats came from coast to landing fleet. Jalidjati Aerodrome captured by light mobile force reported including tanks. 5 Hudsons flew off 21 Blenheims and Hudsons dispersed on aerodrome unable escape.

T.O.O. 1900Z/2

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U.S. CHIEFS OF STAFF.

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 JCS MEMO. 1-17-78  
 BY RT. DATE NOV 14 1973

Hold

GS

COPY NO. 27

TO: Air Ministry, Whitehall

Repeated: TROOPERS  
BURMARMY (Pass MACHIN)  
A.H.Q. India  
NORGROUP Rangoon  
Air Board, Melbourne  
B.A.D. Washington

FROM: BRITAIR OPREP/6 2/2 2/3

**IMMEDIATE.**

It has been agreed that in future BRITGEN and BRITAIR will produce combined daily operational summary covering all army and air activities.

Army situation to 0630Z/2.

(1) During night 1/2 March little enemy activity reported. In west Dutch troops have withdrawn behind river Tsianten. All bridges forward of this area blown and demolitions carried out.

(2) A mobile column sent to counter attack enemy on Soebang area and regain Kalidjati Aerodrome has not yet encountered enemy estimated at 600 with some tanks.

(3) In Kragan area enemy are reported bridging Benlawan Solo River south of Tjepoo. Small parties of enemy have reached Kradenano and Babad. Dutch troops are withdrawing to a prearranged plan where necessary.

(4) In west and round Kalidjati enemy reported using light tanks and wearing light khaki.

(5) Commander Australian forces in Timor reports they have taken to bush and will continue guerilla activities.

Air operational summary to 0030Z/2.

(1) Night bombing of convoys approaching North Java Coast (OPREP/5 refers) was followed by continuous daylight attacks against disembarking and landing enemy forces by Hurricanes Brewsters and P 40's.

(2) Enemy landings from 11 Transports between Pamanoeakan and Indramajoe were hampered from dawn to dusk 1/3 by sorties of strafing R.A.F. Hurricanes and dive bombing and strafing N.E.I. Buffaloes. Several barges sunk or set on fire. Heavy casualties inflicted on enemy forces disembarking in Sampans and barges and upon troops cycle patrols and Transport along Pamanoeakan-Indramajoe Road. 2 enemy seaplanes set on fire at Eretan. 2 Hurricanes lost, 3 damaged by enemy light AA.

(3) Enemy landings from 20 Transports by means of about 60 barges between Toeban and Rembang hampered by strafing by N.E.I. Hurricanes and Buffaloes and American Kittyhawks. Several barges sunk or set on

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Handwritten mark

3 4  
fire. Heavy losses of men and material including tanks inflicted. Enemy strafing of Djombang during refuelling rendered majority of Kittyhawks unserviceable.

(4) No night operations ordered.

(5) Wesgroup operational serviceability  
0030Z/29 Hurricanes 3 Vildebeestes - Air Min pass  
to TROOPERS.

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U.S. Chiefs of Staff.

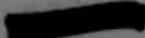
COPY NO. 25

8627

To: AIRMIN, Wellington,  
NORGROUP, AIRBOARD,  
Washington, India.

From: WESGROUP

OPS 30 1st March, 1942.



IMMEDIATE

Java Combined Air Int Summary 28/2.

20 enemy sightings reported during day, 2 main convoys were indicated, first 35 transports several cruisers and large number destroyers approaching north coast Java in direction Rembang, approx. 111° 45' east. Second 25 transports, at least 3 cruisers, some destroyers approaching west of Indramjoe, approx. 108° east. 2 B 17s sank 1 transport, first convoy. Damaged another in continuous series attacks by Allied bombers on sea forces commencing 2000 (G.M.T.?) 28/2. 1 transport was sunk, an auxiliary vessel was probably sunk, 12 direct hits obtained on 9 ships, 11 near misses and fires observed on 4 ships. Enemy bombed Jamplak aerodrome 27/2 hitting magazines, hangars; runways unserviceable though dry; 3 grounded aircraft damaged. A Dutch merchant vessel Zoondam bombed, Dutch naval auxiliary ship Reiger attacked by seaplanes, Banten Bay, Madioen aerodrome raided by 6 unescorted army 97 bombers, damage slight.

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U.S. CHIEFS OF STAFF

DECLASSIFIED  
JCS MEMO. 1-17-78  
BY RI. DATE NOV 14 1973

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NAVY MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

DRAFTER	EXTENSION NUMBER	ADDRESSEES	PRECEDENCE
FROM COM S W PAC FORCE		COMINGH---OPNAV	PRIORITY
RELEASED BY			ROUTINE
DATE MARCH 2 1942			DEFERRED
TOR CODEROOM 1026/2225	INFORMATION		PRIORITY
DECODED BELL			ROUTINE
PARAPHRASED BY BELL			DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSEES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

*W/MS Form*

010319

CCR 3314

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED THIS DISPATCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH DEFERRED PRECEDENCE.

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME DATE TIME GCT

TEXT

ENEMY HAS LANDED NORTH COAST JAVA. LARGE NIP FORCE APPROACHING SOUTH COAST. NAVAL DEFENSE JAVA IMPOSSIBLE NOW EXCEPT BY SUBMARINES. HELFRICH AGREES WITHDRAWAL ALLIED SURFACE FORCES; THIS AM DOING BRITISH DOING SAME. PURNELL IN HOLLAND WILL TAKE OVER DURING INTERIM MY COMMAND POST JAVA ESTABLISHED ELSEWHERE.

DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)  
 OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
 By RHP, NARS Date NOV 14 1973

F-1.....ACTION.

COPY DELIVERED TO OPNAV CO DEROOM.

*Hold*

*38 Cog*  
*Navalies 11 16 (Personal)*  
**WAROPS** ~~**SECRET**~~

Make original only. Deliver to communication watch officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

37140

*65*

U. S. SECRET  
BRITISH MOST SECRETDECLASSIFIED  
By Authority of Jalmanus 81072676  
MAR 27 1975From - C-in-C, ABDA Area. By [Signature] Date

Received - 1030, 3/2/42 (1419, 3/1/42 Java Time)

C O PERTH REPORTS ACTION 27TH FEBRUARY ONE JAP 8-INCH CRUISER AND ONE DESTROYER SUNK AND ONE 8-INCH CRUISER DAMAGED (THESE LOSSES WERE POSSIBLY IN EXCESS OF THOSE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY) STOP NIGHT 28 FEBRUARY/1 MARCH ENEMY LANDINGS ON JAVA

FIRST NORTH WEST BANTAM 16 TRANSPORTS PRESUMABLY ONE DIVISION

SECOND IN BAY WEST OF TANDJOENG INDRAMAJOE 23 SHIPS (CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS INCLUDED) PROBABLY ONE/TWO DIVISIONS

THIRD BETWEEN KRAGAN AND TANDJOENG AWARAWAR (EAST OF REMBANG) BIG CONCENTRATION OF ABOUT 50 SHIPS WITH AT LEAST 2 DIVISIONS

LANDINGS TOOK PLACE DURING CLEAR MOONLIT NIGHT STOP FLEET INDRAMAJOE BOMBED DURING WHOLE NIGHT RESULT NOT YET FULLY KNOWN BUT EXPECTED TO BE SATISFACTORY STOP FLEET EAST OF REMBANG ALSO HEAVILY BOMBED STOP SMALL LOSSES ON OUR SIDE AS NO JAP FIGHTER OPPOSITION STOP ENEMY PROGRESS ON LAND UP TO NOW SMALL STOP ARMY COMMAND INTENDS ATTACK BANTAM GROUP AS SOON AS IT APPEARS POSSIBLE TO COUNTERACT EFFECTIVELY THE THREAT FROM INDRAMAJOE STOP ENEMY INDRAMAJOE IS BEING KEPT UNDER CONSTANT AIR ATTACK STOP ONE INFANTRY REGIMENT WITH SUPPORTING ARTILLERY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MOVED FROM MIDDLE TO WEST JAVA ORDER TO BE AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE THERE STOP IN EAST JAVA AVAILABLE TROOPS: ONE REGIMENT INFANTRY, WITH AUXILIARY UNITS, TERRITORIALS AND SOME BATTALIONS OF NATIVE TROOPS STOP THESE WILL DEFEND THE NAVAL BASE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BUT THEY ARE FACING HEAVY ODDS STOP HOUSTON AND PERTH SAILED 28 FEBRUARY FROM TANDJOENG PRICK TO TJILATJAP FOUGHT NIGHT ACTION

(65)

U. S. SECRET

BRITISH MOST SECRET

SOENDA STRAITS, RESULT NOT YET KNOWN STOP DESTROYER EVERTSEN  
WAS IN ACTION WITH TWO CRUISERS AND WAS BEACHED IN SOENDA STRAITS  
STOP EXETER WITH TWO DESTROYERS SAILED NORTHWARD FROM SOERABAIA  
TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH SOUTH TOWARDS INDIAN OCEAN STOP FOUR  
U. S. DESTROYERS FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH BALI STRAITS EN ROUTE  
FOR TJILATJAP STOP 1 MARCH 8.15 JAVA TIME GROUP JAP WARSHIPS  
INCLUDING HEAVY CRUISERS SIGHTED 125 MILES SOUTH TJILATJAP .  
COURSE NORTH STOP BECAUSE LACK OF BASES BRITISH AMERICAN DUTCH  
SURFACE FORCES WERE SENT AWAY, DUTCH TO COLUMBO STOP DUTCH  
AMERICAN SUBMARINES REMAIN IN ACTION AS LONG AS SUPPLIES LAST  
THEREAFTER DUTCH TO COLUMBO, U S SUBMARINES TO AUSTRALIA STOP  
AM TRYING TO EVACUATE TRAINED NAVAL PERSONNEL TO COLUMBO OR  
AUSTRALIA BUT VIEW THREAT TO TJILATJAP DOUBTFUL WHETHER SUCCESSFUL

- - - - -

From - C-in-C, ABDA Area.

Received - 3/2/42

ADMIRAL HELFRICH LEFT JAVA FOR COLUMBO BY AIR THIS MORNING TO  
CONTINUE OPERATIONS FROM COLUMBO

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_

By JH Date MAR 27 1975

COPY NO. 21

To: Admiralty.  
Repeated A.C.N.B.  
E.A.D.  
From: C. in C., E.F.  
Dated: 1st March, 1942.

~~MOST SECRET.~~  
MOST IMMEDIATE.

Following received from Admiral Helfrich.

Begins:

"I have resigned command of Allied Naval Forces. S.O. China Force ordered withdrawal of British Naval Forces and U.S. Naval Forces excepting (? submarines) are also being withdrawn. This is with my consent. Hope you will provide me all possible escort. I shall try to send all my remaining forces to Colombo.

T.O.O. 0355/1st." Ends.

T.O.O. 1230Z/1.

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U.S. Chiefs of Staff.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_

*JAL memo 10726-75*  
MAR 27 1975

By 91 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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~~U.S. SECRET~~~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~

From - C-in-C, Naval Forces AFDL Command.  
 Received - 1200, 2/28/42.

27 FEBRUARY TWO BIG AND HEAVILY ESCORTED JAP CONVOYS WERE SIGHTED IN WESTERN JAVA SEA COMING OUT OF BANGKA STRAITS AND IN EASTERN JAVA SEA COMING OUT OF MACASSAR STRAITS. STRIKING FORCE WAS SENT TO ATTACK, CONTACTED ENEMY NEAR BAWEAN. NAVAL BATTLE FOLLOWED DURING AFTERNOON AND NIGHT; DETAILS STILL LACKING. WE LOST CRUISERS DE RUYTER AND JVA BY EXPLOSIONS, POSSIBLY TORPEDO HITS BY JAP SUBMARINES, AND DESTROYER KORTENAER BY GUNFIRE, BRITISH CRUISER EXETER DAMAGED, DESTROYERS ELECTRA AND JUPITER SUNK; AS FAR AS KNOWN HOUSTON AND PERTH NO DAMAGE.

ENEMY HAD FIVE CRUISERS, SOME OF WHICH WERE HEAVY ONES, AND NINE DESTROYERS; ENEMY LOSSES NOT FULLY KNOWN BUT AT LEAST THREE DESTROYERS, WHILE ONE MOGAMI WAS ON FIRE.

CONVOY IN WESTERN JAVA SEA SEEMS TO HAVE RETIRED WHILE LANDING IN EASTERN JAVA HAS BEEN DELAYED.

LANGLEY WITH FIGHTERS WAS SUNK 28 FEBRUARY SOUTH OF NJILATJAP BY JAP BOMBER. THIS WAS THE FIRST JAP ACTION OF THAT KIND ON THE SOUTH COAST OF JAVA.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_

*Jap memo 10 Feb 75.*  
 By 91 Date MAR 27 1975

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COPY NO. 27

To: AIRMIN Whitehall  
Rptd: AHQ India  
NORGROUP Air Board  
BRITMAN Washington  
From: AVM Maltby  
Dated: 28th February, 1942.

IMMEDIATE

OPREP 4

Daily operational summary up to 0030/28/2.

2 Blenheims attacked 30 army 97 bombers on Palembang II; results unobserved, resistance negligible.

1 Blenheim bombed shipping Palembang River; results unobserved.

1 Hudson attacked convoy 4 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 30 M.V. 3000 - 1000 tons, 04° South 106° 30' East, course 345°; 1 near miss on large M.V.

3 U.S.A. A.24s attacked enemy force 15 destroyers, 43 transports, 05° 30' South 113° 40' East; one transport sunk several near misses.

Recce and bomber aircraft sighted 3 enemy forces approaching centre of North Java Coast.

2 U.S.A. B.17s attacked naval screen of first force causing cruiser to stop.

1 U.S.A. B.17 attacked third force without result.

WESGROUP Aircraft serviceability at 1230Z/27/2. Blenheim IV 5. Hudson III 2. Vildebeest 8. Albacore 1. Hurricane 13.

T.O.O. 0835/28

RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION

U.S. CHIEFS OF STAFF

DECLASSIFIED  
JCS MEMO. 1-17-73  
BY RT. DATE NOV 14 1973

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COPY NO. 27

TO: AIR MIN WHITEHALL  
RPTD: AHQ INDIA NCRGROUP  
AIRBOARD DRITMAN  
WASHINGTON  
FROM: WESGROUP



IMMEDIATE

OPREP/3 27/2

Reference OPREP/2 26/2. Commencing with this signal propose send OPREPS as from WESGROUP and as at 0030Z daily for previous 24 hours.

Daily MP Summary to 0030Z/27 follows. As in OPREP/2 to which add following.

Enemy convoy of 8 warships and 24 transports reported 2130Z/25 at 315 degrees 20 miles from Arends Island Course 245 degrees. Attack by heavy bombers and dive bombers of Java Air Command ordered for this morning. Aircraft serviceable Blenheim IV 6, Hudson 1, Vildebeeste 11, Albacore 2, Hurricanes 13

T.O.O. 2135/27

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CGS 384 Java (2-27-42)

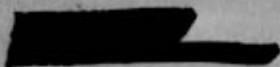
From - Governor General, Dutch East Indies.  
To - General DYKHOORN.

Time of Receipt - 3:00 P.M., 2/27/42

UP TO MIDDAY TODAY NO LANDINGS ON JAVA REPORTED.  
STRIKING FORCE MISSED ENEMY FLEET. BANDOENG IS BEING  
BOMBED AGAINST WHICH FIGHTER PROTECTION HAS BEEN PROVIDED.  
ALTHOUGH NATURALLY UNCERTAIN EXPECT LANDING(S) ON EAST OR  
(AND) MIDDLE JAVA.

INFORMATION RECEIVED REGARDING TRANSPORTS FROM  
PALEMBANG AND BANKA WHICH ARE PROBABLY HEADING FOR WEST  
JAVA.

READY FOR ACTION AT PRESENT TWENTY SIX (26) BOMBERS  
OF VARIOUS TYPES AND THIRTY THREE (33) FIGHTERS WHICH  
FIGURES HOPE TO IMPROVE BY EXECUTING REPAIRS AND SUPPLY  
OF PLANES FROM ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF UNINTER-  
RUPTED ACTION HEAVY LOSSES MAY BE EXPECTED.

  
~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

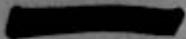
By Authority of \_\_\_\_\_

Jes memo 10 Feb 75

By JA Date MAR 27 1975

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TO: AIRMIN W. HALL  
AIRBOARD WELLINGTON  
WASHINGTON  
NORGROUP, INDIA.  
FROM: WESGROUP BANDOENG



IMMEDIATE

A combined air intelligence centre summary 2 27/2. 6 naval sightings.

1. 6 cruisers, 6 destroyers and 50 transports position 20 miles west of Bawean Island. Main part of convoy passed Bawean Island 1620Z/27.
2. 35 unidentified ships, 5 deg., 10 min. south, 111 deg., 35 min east, course 170 deg. with 1 large warship, 4 small warships, 5 deg. 05 min. south, 111 deg., 35 min east. Time 0257Z/27. In addition large number ships sighted 05 deg. 40 min. south, 111 deg., 45 min east.
3. Two parties approached from west parallel 06 deg., 20 min south, comprising 5 large several smaller ships steaming northwest and 3 cruisers 3 destroyers steaming west. Time 0130Z/27.
4. Enemy submarine 06 deg., 00 min south, 108 deg., 52 min east. Time 0802Z/27.
5. One cruiser bearing 040 deg., 30 miles, 04 deg., 04 min south, 111 deg. 07 min east, course 22 deg. Time 0605Z/27.
6. 30 merchant vessels in 3 lines escorted by 4 cruisers, 3 destroyers, position 40 miles north east Tanjong Kenam (East Sumatra) course 345, deg. 12 knots. Time 0252Z/27. 2 B17's damaged. Cruiser in first mentioned sighting and 3 A24S sank 1 transport, same convoy Hudson near misses, convoy south of Banka Straits 2 Blenheims bombed and machine gunned 30 army X7

*Held*

bombers on ground Palembang. Results unobserved probably very good. U.S.A. aircraft carrier Langley bombed by 9 aircraft and sank approaching Tjilatjap. One Catalina damaged by Navy O. minesweeper, dive bombed Sunda Straits. Our naval striking force continually attacked from air during the daylight.

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U.S. Chiefs of Staff.

INIMMEDIATE

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall  
 Air Staff Wellington  
 Air Board Melbourne  
 B.A.D. Washington  
 NORGROUP Rangoon

From: WEIGROUP Bandoeng

OPS/14 27/2/42

Combined Air Intelligence Centre Intelligence Summary No. 1.

Seven Naval sightings 26 Feb. local times.

First: One cruiser one transport 04 degrees 28 minutes South 115 degrees 08 minutes East course 245 degrees 0345 hours.

Second: One cruiser four destroyers 04 degrees 50 minutes South 115 degrees 00 minutes East course 245 degrees. 0400 hours.

Third: Three cruisers 5 destroyers 24 transports bearing 315 degrees distant 20 miles course 245 degrees Arends Island. 0500 hours.

Fourth: 4 Merchant vessels less than 5000 repeat 5000 tons, 6 merchant vessels of 5000 tons, 4 merchant vessels 9000 tons Muntok Harbour 0700 hours.

Fifth: Two cruisers Isuhu Class 2 destroyers 06 degrees 25 minutes South 117 degrees 13 minutes East course 315 degrees. 0710 hours.

Sixth: One destroyer 1 cruiser 1 auxiliary 3 transports in Bay East Bali. 1 Cruiser 10 miles seawards from this position. 0815 hours.

Seventh: 3 battle cruisers 3 cruisers 3 destroyers 02 degrees 41 minutes North 106 degrees 25 minutes East course 190 degrees. 1 merchant vessel anchored 02 degrees 49 minutes 105 degrees 42 minutes East. 1140 hours.

Air raid Sourabaya 26/2/42. No damage reported. 1 Navy 'O' shot down. No Allied loss. Allied bombing Sorties unsuccessful. 1 Glen Martin lost. Japanese maintaining standing fighter patrol South Sumatra. New Aerodrome observed Bali 08 degrees 42 minutes South 115 degrees 12 minutes East. 27 aircraft present.

T.O.O. 1355/27

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COPY NO. 31

TO: Air Ministry Whitehall  
Repeated: Air Board Melbourne  
Air Staff Wellington  
B.A.D. Washington  
NCRGROUP Rangoon  
FROM: BRITAIR  
DATED: 27th February, 1942.

**██████████**  
IMPORTANT.

CO 283 27/2.

Herewith repetition my T.O.O. 1645/26\*  
Intelligence Summary One February 26  
Recce. Banten Bay sighted one sloop nine fishing  
boats. Recce Dilli February 24 sighted one transport 15000  
tons one aircraft carrier two cruisers three destroyers.  
Jap A.A. at Bali airfield. Den Pasar nine large three  
small transports unloading. Enemy bombed Kalidjati  
Tjilitan Tanjong Priok Sourabaya Batavia. Some damage  
but none extremely serious. Allied losses three fighters  
two bombers. Enemy losses two fighters definite four  
fighters one bomber probable four damaged.

T.O.O. 0810/27.

\* Received Corrupt

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COPY NO. 29

From: JAVA Air Command.  
To: Air Ministry Whitehall.  
Repeated: A.HQ. India,  
NORGROUP RANGOON.  
Airboard Melbourne.  
BRITMAN Washington.  
OPREP/2 26th February, 1942.



Air Ministry pass to Britman Washington.  
Daily Operational Summary to 1030/26/2 shipping at Muntok attacked by 1 Blenheim. Blenheim scored direct hit on a merchant vessel but no explosion seen. Later 2 Glen Martins attacked shipping in the same area. Bombs dropped but results not observed owing to heavy enemy fighter attack. 11 Navy (0) Fighters destroyed 1 Glen Martin missing. Heavy enemy fighter opposition hampered further operations by 3 Glen Martins in Babka area. 2 B.17 unsuccessfully attacked shipping off Abli. Sourabaya raided by forty plus enemy bombers with fighter escorts but bombs jettisoned in sea. Interception by P.40s resulted in 1 Navy 'Q' destroyed without loss. No enemy air activity West Java.

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8628

COPY NO. 25

To: AIR MIN WHITEHALL

Rptd: A.H.Q. INDIA,  
NORGROUP RANGOON,  
AIR BOARD MELBOURNE,  
BRITMAN WASHINGTON.

From: AIR VICE MARSHALL MALTBY.

IMMEDIATE

Daily Operational Summary T.O.O. 0030Z 1/3.

Numerous enemy warships and transports sighted approaching Java coast in at least three convoys 27/28 Feb.

Night 28 Feb./1 Mar. six Blenheims, two Hudsons attacked convoy approaching Indramajoe. Night fighters encountered. Direct hits on two transports. One auxiliary probably sunk. Many near misses. Same time nine Vildebeests made two sorties each against convoy approaching Bantjar several direct hits claimed. Our losses one Blenheim and two Vildebeests missing; one crashed, crew safe; one Blenheim and one Hudson damaged. Reports not yet complete.

American operations. Two B.17s attacked large convoy, 0840 local time 28/2, one large transport sunk, one damaged. Later attacks by four B.17s, one LB.30, resulted direct hit one transport, near misses three others, one other left burning. Three B.17s not yet reported.

Dutch operations. Glen Martins attack convoy off Indramajoe. Direct hit one warship, near miss another. Direct hits four transports and probably one other. Later Brewsters attack Indramajoe landing. One barge sunk, two others probable. Direct hit on landing jetty. Barges machine gunned.

One Brewster damaged. Semplak aerodrome (one group missing suggested 'BOMBED') ED. Unserviceable for two days. One Lodestar, one Hudson, one Buffalo damaged.

Japanese landings reported at Banten, Moera, Tjilmaja, Iyddn, AJoe, Bantjar (Kragan) details not yet known. Successful Hurricane attacks on Intramajoe landing in progress. Wesgroup aircraft serviceability 0030Z/1 approximately Blenheim four, Hudson one, Vildebeest six, Hurricane twelve.

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To: AIR MIN., Whitehall

Repeated: TROOPERS  
 Burmarmy (pass Machin)  
 A.H.Q. India  
 WINGGROUP Rangoon  
 Air Board, Melbourne  
 BRITMAN, Washington

From: BRITAIR OPREP/7 3/3

IMMEDIATE.

Daily Operational Summary.

1. Army to 0630Z/3.

In west Japanese forces have reached Tanga Eng (?) where bridge has been blown. Small parties of enemy have crossed river further south. Earlier blackforce patrols reeled (as deciphered) up to Djaanga without encountering enemy. Owing to premature demolition of bridge at Leuwiliang blackforce was unable to carry out a counter attack northwards. In centre Dutch forces in an enveloping movement are in contact with enemy at Kalidjati and Soebang. Another mobile force encountered enemy in superior number at Eretan and had to withdraw but are working round a flank. Japanese on cycles reported infiltrating to Soekamantri. Raid on Andir by 50 plus bombers supported by 12 fighters also paratroops were dropped at Bajongbong south of Gawoet. Armoured cars dealing with them in east Japanese forces have penetrated to Tjsoe and Mooneng but Dutch forces are still operating in the area and no enemy reported east of Babad. AA claim 5 enemy bombers shot down in Bandoeng area.

General.

Enemy main thrusts appear to be on Batavia and west of Sourabaya.

2. Air to 0030Z/3.

During day 2/3 N.E.I. bombers carried out numerous attacks. Direct hits on 3 large transports off Eretan near misses four others. Several burnt out and sunken vessels seen. Near misses three floatplanes taking off only one took off. Attacked transports Tjioamaja-Tjikampek road results not observed. In morning attack on enemy occupied aerodrome Kalidjati hits scored on runways big craters observed later. In another attack several hits round hangars and on aerodrome one on AA. RAF Hurricanes morning 2/3 destroyed enemy seaplane north of Batavia. Attacked Kalidjati first light 3/3 shot up enemy fighters and ground crew. Ref OPREP/5 one group missing, one missing Vildebeeste now safe also one member remaining Vildebeeste crew. These aircraft in raid on enemy landing east Java 1/3 scored 2 direct hits on transport vessel causing fire also dropped bombs amongst troops and barges results not observed. Enemy raid on Andir afternoon 2/3 destroyed 1 Blenheim. No interception by fighters. Continuous reconnaissance of enemy land movements during day by Allied aircraft. WESGROUP aircraft serviceability at 0030Z/3 four Hurricanes.

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