

Chapter IV Progress in the Preparations for the Invasion of the Dutch East Indies

(See Attached Illustration No.1) [Omitted]

1. Smooth Progress in the Stage-One, Phase-One Operations

Success in the Leadoff Operations on the First Day of the Opening of Hostilities

The first action in the Greater East Asia War was initiated in Kota Bharu in the Malaya area. Right before 0000 on 8 December, the main force of the 1st Escort Unit of the Malaya Unit ([consisting of] one light cruiser and four destroyers of the 3d Destroyer Squadron as the core) escorted three transport ships of the Army Takumi Detachment and entered the roadstead off Kota Bharu at the northern end of the British part of the Malay Peninsula, from where the Army unit started landing from 0215 onwards. From the land fierce counterattacks were immediately made against these landings. These were the first hostilities in the Greater East Asia War. The Kota Bharu unit, while continuing its landing operation, [also] came under repeated attacks of several enemy aircraft from around 0330 onwards.

Meanwhile, the Navy's Carrier Task Force ([consisting of] six aircraft carriers as the core) reached the waters about 200 nautical miles north of Hawaii at 0100 on that day and launched the first attack unit consisting of 180 carrier-based aircraft. These rushed into the skies over Pearl Harbor at 0320, carrying out strikes on the main force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored there. It was a perfectly successful surprise attack.

At 0600 on the same day, IGHQ announced: "Today, the 8th, before dawn, the Imperial [Japanese] Army and Navy entered a state of war with U.S. and British forces in the western Pacific."

The other engagements on 8 December are in outline as follows:

1. The 5th Division that was to land in the Singora and Pattani areas in Malaya entered the anchorage at 0035 and successfully landed in Singora and Pattani respectively at 0410 and 0430.
2. At 0515 the Navy dispatched a bearer of a flag of truce to the U.S. and British gunboats in Shanghai to demand their surrender. Whereas *USS Wake* surrendered, *HMS Peterel* opened fire at 0530. The Navy unit sank the latter at 0605.
3. Thirty-two land-based attack planes of the Navy Mihoro Air Group of the 22d Air Flotilla departed from Thủ Dầu Một in French Indochina at 0015 and carried out air strikes on airfields and military facilities in Singapore from 0530 to 0545.
4. The special landing force of the 2d Base Force came ashore on Batan Island in the Philippines at 0730 and seized the airfield.

5. A combined force of about 160 fighter planes and bombers of the Army Third Air Force departed from air bases in southern French Indochina around 0630 and carried out air strikes on the Kota Bharu sector in full force (and the Kedah sector with one element) around 0800.
6. Twenty-two carrier aircraft of the 4th Carrier Division departed at 0545 and carried out air strikes on the airfield in Davao and the auxiliary seaplane tender *USS William B. Preston* between 0746 and 0843.
7. Five reconnaissance seaplanes of the 18th Air Group of the Fourth Fleet departed from Saipan at 0645 and carried out air strikes on Guam.
8. The 2d Escort Unit, which escorted the Uno Detachment of the Fifteenth Army, put the latter ashore north of Nakhon (included) on the Malay Peninsula at 1000.
9. Thirty-four land-based attack planes of the Chitose Air Group of the Fourth Fleet departed from Roi (note: [in the] northern part of the Marshall Islands) at 0510, and bombed Wake Island at 1010.
10. Eighteen heavy bombers and twenty-five light bombers of the Army Fifth Air Force departed from southern Taiwan between 0620 and 0730, and conducted a bombing raid on Tuguegarao and Baguio in the northern Philippines around 0930.
11. The Navy Special Landing Force at Shanghai started the seizure of the International Settlement ([particularly] the U.S. and British [concessions]) at 1100.
12. 106 Land-based attack planes and 85 fighter planes of the Eleventh Air Fleet departed from southern Taiwan between 0920 and 1030, and conducted an attack on the Clarke and Iba [airfields] on the Philippines respectively at 1332 and 1345.

All of these leadoff strikes were a big success. Particularly, the air strikes on Hawaii, on which the Navy had staked the success or failure of the first engagements, achieved a tremendous success. In two [waves of] strikes, [the Navy] dealt a devastating blow to the main force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet only at the cost of twenty-nine aircraft. However, as none of the U.S. carriers were in port in Pearl Harbor [at that time], the Navy missed the opportunity of destroying them. Also, in the Malaya area, Japanese forces were able to secure a beachhead in Kota Bharu, which had been regarded as extremely difficult, and completed the landing operations in the Pattani and the Singora sectors in southern Thailand, meeting almost no resistance. In the Philippines area, naval air groups reported military gains of bringing down or destroying ninety or more [enemy] aircraft with the attack on the Clarke and Iba airfields. Also, Army air units reported military gains of bringing down or destroying about fifty enemy aircraft in the attack on British air force bases in the Kota Bharu sector (and partly in the Kedah sector) in the Malaya area.

In the Thailand area, the Imperial Guard Division, which had been standing by at the border between Thailand and French Indochina, departed from the border at 0700 on the 8th to launch its advance into Thailand. The Yoshida Detachment of the Fifteenth Army, which had been standing by on Phú Quốc Island, also reached [the waters] south of Bangkok before dawn of the 8th, and started landing. The negotiations concerning the stationing of Japanese forces in Thailand had been delayed due to the absence of Prime Minister [Luang] Pibulsonggram, and the advance was made before the negotiations had reached an agreement, which led to conflicts with the Royal Thai Army at a few places. However, Thailand soon took steps to stop the resistance, and after the negotiations reached an agreement at 1200, the advance was implemented without problems.

Satisfactory Progress Seen also in the Operations in Malaya and Northern Borneo

The surprise landings on Malaya on the first day of the opening of hostilities had been successful, and it was [also] judged that the air campaign of the Army air units against the enemy air power in northern Malaya had destroyed on the whole the greater part of the British air forces in the space of two days, the 8th and the 9th. During this period, other than a few attacks by [enemy] aircraft and several counterattacks by [enemy] submarines, there was no noteworthy resistance, and the operations progressed satisfactorily.

On the afternoon of 9 December, submarine(s) deployed at sea on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula noticed two [enemy] battleships and some destroyers sailing north, but due to bad weather, it was impossible to attack them on that day. On the afternoon of the next day, the 10th, about eighty Navy land-based attack planes attacked them, and sank the battleships *HMS Prince of Wales* and *HMS Repulse*, the main force of the British Fleet in the East (the sea battle off Malaya).

On 10 December, the head unit of the 5th Division, which had landed in the vicinity of Singora, destroyed the British army [there], broke through the border between Thailand and Malaya, continued its bold charge, and as early as on 26 December, seized Ipoh, a strategic location in central Malaya. Meanwhile, after breaking through Terengganu on the 23d, the Takumi Detachment in the Kota Bharu sector closed in on Kwantan. In the meantime, on 26 December, the 1st Escort Unit of the Malaya Unit escorted the army units of the second [wave of] landings and put them ashore at Singora and other areas. The units of the second wave, following after the units of the first wave, advanced southward.

While carrying out air campaigns and providing support for the ground operations in northern and central Malaya, the Army Third Air Force advanced its main force to Sungai Petani in northern Malaya around the 20th.

Meanwhile in the Burma region, one element of the Army Third Air Force advanced to Bangkok on the 10th, and launched air strikes against southern Burma, such as Victoria Point [Kawthaung], etc. In the meantime, the Uno Detachment, which had landed in southern Thailand, captured Victoria Point on the 14th, while the air units carried out air raids on Rangoon with a massive strength both on 23 and 25 December.

In the northern Borneo region, in parallel with the second landings in the Malaya area, the Kawaguchi Detachment of the Army, a naval special landing force and a construction squad landed in Miri on the 16th and in Kuching on the 24th of December under the escort of the 2d Escort Unit of the Malaya Unit. In this operation, three destroyers were sunk and several transport ships were damaged by air raids of the enemy and torpedo attacks by enemy submarines. The landing units captured Kuching on the 25th, and started preparations to advance the main force of the naval land-based air units, while one element of the air units, which had advanced to Miri on the 22d, carried out an air strike on Tarakan on the 26th for the first time.

Gaining Command of the Air in the Philippines Area and the Rapid Advance of the Ground Units

The air campaign to destroy the enemy air power in Luzon [conducted by] the naval land-based air units as the main force had been continued since 8 December, employing a massive strength, and as early as on the 13th, they had already destroyed the greater part of the U.S. air units.

In parallel with this air campaign, the Army advance units and the naval special landing forces seized key locations such as Batan Island on the 8th, and Aparri and Vigan on the 10th under the escort of the surface vessels of the Navy Philippines Unit and with the support of the air units of the Army and the Navy, which [enabled] the advance of the Army Fifth Air Force [to the area]. On the 12th, Legaspi at the southeastern tip of Luzon was seized in a sudden attack, which enabled an element of the Navy land-based air units to advance and launch their air campaign against the enemy air power in central Luzon. On the 20th, the [Navy] Philippines Unit captured Davao, a strategic location in the southern Philippines. (Although the landing in Davao was at first scheduled for 14 December, it was postponed until the 22d, due to the appearance of the British state-of-the-art battleships, which led the Southern Task Force on 28 November to concentrate its air and naval forces on that sector. However, because of the sinking of [both battleships] in the sea battle off Malaya, as well as the military gains in the air campaign to destroy the enemy air power in the Philippines right at the outset of the war, and the less-than-expected resistance of the enemy, it was judged advantageous to move up the date of the landing. On 15 December, in an arrangement between the Army and the Navy on site, it was moved up by two days to 20 December.)

Following [the above], the main force of the Fourteenth Army was put ashore at Lingayen Gulf and at Lamon Bay respectively on the 22d and the 24th. On the 25th, the [Navy] Philippines Unit captured Jolo, (which was [originally] scheduled for the 21st but postponed in line with the postponement of the capture of Davao). With the capture of Davao and Jolo, the footholds were secured, from where the subsequent Dutch East Indies operation should be launched. The main force of the Fourteenth Army, which had landed at Lingayen Gulf and Lamon Bay, made a pincer attack on the U.S.-Filipino Army from the north and the east, and charged toward Manila (which was seized on 2 January).

Against these multiple landing operations, no surface war vessels of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet showed up, apart from some active counterattacks conducted by submarines. The fleet was considered to have escaped to the Dutch East Indies and northern Australia.

In the meantime, the Navy land-based air units with their bases in Taiwan, which had continued air raids on the Manila Bay areas as well as on the central Philippines, started advancing their forces to Davao and Jolo respectively on 22 and 26 December to launch reconnaissance and air strikes on Tarakan and Menado.

2. The Bulk of the [Navy] Philippines Unit is Shifted to the Dutch East Indies Unit

The Shift to the Phase-Two Disposition of Forces

Combined Fleet Commander in Chief Admiral Yamamoto, who judged that the landings of the main force of the Army unit for capturing the Philippines were completed, issued an order to shift to phase-two operations at 1200 on 26 December.⁽⁵³⁾ The [new] distribution of forces of the Southern Task Force in this order was roughly as in the following table. Except for an element of the Third Fleet, the bulk of the [Navy] Philippines Unit was shifted to the Dutch East Indies Unit.⁽⁴⁷⁾

Name of Unit	Commander	Forces
Main Body of the Southern Task Force	Cdr in chief, 2d Fleet	4th Cruiser Div (minus the <i>Chōkai</i>), 3d Battleship Div 2d Section, 4th Carrier Div (minus 2d Section), 4th Destroyer Div and 6th Destroyer Div 1st Section
The Philippines Unit		One element of the 3d Fleet
The Dutch East Indies Unit		Cdr in chief, 3d Fleet Bulk of 3d Fleet, 5th Cruiser Div, 2d Destroyer Sqdn (minus 8th and 18th Destroyer Divs), 4th Destroyer Sqdn (minus 4th Destroyer Div), 11th Seaplane Tender Div, 1st Patrol Boat Div (minus 2 patrol boats), 3 SLFs, 5 construction squads
Malaya Unit		Cdr in chief, Southern Expeditionary Fleet Southern Expeditionary Fleet, the <i>Chōkai</i> , 7th Cruiser Div, 3d and 5th Destroyer Sqdns, 8th Destroyer Div, 4th Submarine Sqdn, 17th Minelayer Div 2d Section, 22d Air Flotilla, main body of Kanoya Air Gp, Yamada Unit, 12th Seaplane Tender Div (minus the <i>San'yō-maru</i>), 2d Yokosuka SLF, 4th Construction Squad, 11th* Submarine Base Unit
Air Unit		Cdr in chief, 11th Air Fleet 11th Air Fleet (minus 22d Air Flotilla, main body of Kanoya Air Gp, 36 carrier-based fighter planes and 6 land-based reconnaissance planes), 2 SLFs
Submarine Unit		Cdr, 5th Submarine Sqdn 5th and 6th Submarine Sqdns

The main force of the Southern Task Force was further divided into the following units:

Name of Unit	Commander	Forces
Main Unit	Under direct command of cdr in chief, 2d Fleet	4th Cruiser Div 1st Section, the <i>Kongō</i> , 4th Destroyer Div
Eastern Support Unit	Capt of the <i>Haruna</i>	The <i>Haruna</i> , the <i>Maya</i> , 6th Destroyer Div 1st Section

* The text mistakenly has *111th*.

Notes:

1. The 4th Carrier Division was temporarily put under the command [of the main body of the Southern Task Force] to be [further] transferred to the Malaya Unit, and therefore not included in this distribution of forces.
2. [Concerns abbreviations in Japanese, irrelevant to the translation: Omitted by the editor.]

The Situation of the Navy Southern Task Force

The movements of each unit around 26 December were as follows:

1. The Dutch East Indies Unit (as in the following table)

Name of Unit		Whereabouts	Movements
3d Fleet HQ; 16th Cruiser Div		Magong	Returned to Magong on 23d December after supporting the Luzon invasion operations; is preparing for the next operations
17th Minelayer Div 1st Section		Palau	Returned to Palau on 11 December after implementing offensive mining operations in the waterways east of the Philippines; is protecting maritime transport routes between Davao, Legaspi and Palau
<i>San'yō-maru</i>		Gaoxiong	Aircraft unit returned to Donggang on 25 December after participating in the Lingayen landing operations
5th Cruiser Div		Palau	Due to arrive in Palau between 27-28 December after supporting the operations to capture Davao and Jolo
2d Destroyer Sqdn	<i>Jintsū</i> and 15th Destroyer Div	Jolo	Are guarding Jolo after engaging in the operation to capture Jolo
	16th Destroyer Div 2d Section	Davao	Is guarding Davao after engaging in the operation to capture Davao
	16th Destroyer Div 1st Section	Heading for Palau from Lamon Bay	Left Lamon Bay on 26 December for Palau after completing the operation in Lamon Bay
4th Destroyer Sqdn	<i>Naka</i> , 2d and 9th Destroyer Divs	Gaoxiong	Arrived in Gaoxiong on 26 December via Magong after the Lingayen landing operation
	24th Destroyer Div	Heading for Palau from Lamon Bay	Left Lamon Bay on 26 December for Palau after completing the operation in Lamon Bay
11th Seaplane Tender Div	<i>Chitose</i>	Heading for Davao from Jolo	Due to arrive in Davao on 27 December, leaving Jolo on 26th, after providing guard for the landing [operation] of the Jolo operation unit
	<i>Mizuho</i>	Heading for Palau from Lamon Bay	Left Lamon Bay on 26 December for Palau after completing the operation in Lamon Bay

1st Base Force		Main force in Lamon Bay; one element in Davao	Is guarding the anchorage in Lamon Bay with the main force, while setting up defense facilities at Davao with one element
2d Base Force	Main Force	Lingayen Gulf	Is guarding the anchorage in Lingayen Gulf
	<i>Sanuki-maru</i>	Gaoxiong	Aircraft units returned to Donggang from Vigan on the 25th
1st Patrol Boat Div		Palau, etc.	Is guarding anchorage(s) or [returned] to Palau, after engaging in operations in Lamon Bay, Legaspi and Jolo; one element is guarding the <i>Chitose</i> and the <i>Mizuho</i>
Special Landing Force [SLF]		Main force in Palau; one element in other places	The main force is standing by in Palau; one element is guarding Legaspi, Lamon Bay and Jolo
Construction Squad	1st Construction Squad	Legaspi	Landed in Legaspi on 12 December; is setting up air field(s)
	2d Construction Squad	Davao	Landed in Davao on 20 December; is setting up air field(s)
	3d Construction Squad	Palau	Is standing by
	5th Construction Squad	Heading for Palau from Kure	Due to arrive in Palau on 27 December
	6th Construction Squad	Heading for Palau from Sasebo	Due to arrive in Palau on 28 December

2. The Air Unit

Name of Unit		Whereabouts	Movements
11th Air Fleet HQ		Gaoxiong	Is directing the operations
21st Air Flotilla	HQ	Palau ([shift-ing] to Davao)	[Shifted] from Tainan to Palau on 19 December, and will further [shift] to Davao on 27 December
	Kanoya Air Gp Det	Peleliu (One element [shift-ing] to Davao)	25* Type-1 land-based attack planes [flew] from Taizhong to Peleliu on 18 December, 10 [of which] will [shift] to Davao on 28 December
	1st Air Gp	Tainan	Cancelled its advance of 39 Type-96 land-based attack planes to Jolo; leaves it with no immediate advance scheduled
	1001 Unit	Jiayi	28 Type-96 transport planes

* The number given in *Illustration No. 1*, p. 102, is 27.

21st Air Flotilla [cont.]	1st Yokosuka SLF	Heading for Davao from Gaoxiong	Left Gaoxiong for Davao on 26 December
	3d Yokosuka SLF	Jiayi	Is standing by
	Tōkō Air Gp	Main force in Davao; one element in Palau and Donggang	18 flying boats [shifted] from Palau to Davao between 22-25 December
23d Air Flotilla	HQ	Gaoxiong	Is directing operations
	Takao Air Gp	Gaoxiong	61 Type-1 land-based attack planes
	Tainan Air Gp	Tainan	Of 25 Type-0 fighter planes, 2 land-based reconnaissance planes and a few Type-96 fighter planes about half were advanced to Legaspi on 14 December, [the other] half were advanced to Jolo on 25 December
	3d Air Gp	Gaoxiong	Of 31 Type-0 fighter planes, 4 land-based reconnaissance planes and a few Type-96 fighter planes about two-thirds were [advanced] to Davao between 23-25 December

3. The Philippines Unit

32d Special Base Force	Davao	Landed in Davao on 20 December; is guarding the place
One element of 1st Base Force	Lamon Bay (One element for Palau)	1st Gunboat Div left Lamon Bay for Palau on 26 December; the rest is guarding Lamon Bay
One element of 2d Base Force	Lingayen Gulf	Is guarding Lingayen Gulf

4. The Submarine Unit

Submarine Unit A	<i>Chōgei</i>	Heading for Davao from Magong	Left Magong on 26 December for Davao
	Main force of 6th Submarine Sqdn	Assembling in Davao	3 submarines are assembling in Davao; 1 submarine off Manila
Submarine Unit B	<i>Yura</i>	Heading for Cam Ranh Bay	Left waters off Kuching on 25 December for Cam Ranh Bay
	Main force of 5th Submarine Sqdn	Assembling in Cam Ranh Bay	4 submarines are assembling in Cam Ranh Bay; 2 submarines are under repair in Kobe

5. The Main Body of the Southern Task Force

Main Unit	Cam Ranh Bay	Arrived in Cam Ranh Bay on 24 December, after supporting the Lingayen Gulf landing operation
Eastern Support Unit	Magong	Arrived in Magong on 23 December, after supporting the Lingayen Gulf landing operation
4th Carrier Div	Palau	Arrived in Palau on 26 December, after supporting the operation in Jolo
8th Destroyer Div	Magong	Temporarily transferred to the Malaya Unit

The Situation of the Army Units

16th Army HQ	Tokyo	Is engaged in gathering information, studying the operation plan and taking command of its [subordinate] units
2d Div	Central Japan	Shifted to the maneuvering grounds in central Japan; is conducting training
Sakaguchi Det	Main force in Davao; one element in Jolo and Palau	Landed in Davao with its main force on 20 December; [the unit] is mopping up the enemy in the vicinity
38th Div	Hong Kong	Is engaged in the Hong Kong operation; it captured the city on 25 December
48th Div	Luzon	Landed at Lingayen Gulf on 22 December; is advancing to Manila

3. Assessment of the Enemy Situation in the Dutch East Indies Area at the Launch of Phase-Two Operations

On 26 December, the shift to phase-two dispositions was put into effect. V. Adm. Takahashi Ibō, commander of the [Navy] Philippines Unit until that time, became the Dutch East Indies Unit commander, while the bulk of the Philippines Unit was shifted to the Dutch East Indies Unit. In the meantime, the Air Unit had also advanced its forces to the Davao – Jolo line in the southern Philippines and was making preparations to launch the Dutch East Indies operation, while clearing remnants of the enemy in the Philippines. On 29 December, Southern Task Force Commander V. Adm. Kondō Nobutake held a meeting with Commander in Chief of the Southern Army General Terauchi Hisaichi at Cam Ranh Bay and agreed upon a major moving-up of the schedule of the coming operations (which will be explained later in detail), while dated on the same day, the Dutch East Indies Unit issued Operation Order No. 1* concerning the invasion of the Dutch East Indies. In this period, Dutch East Indies Commander Vice Admiral Takahashi's assessment of the enemy situation was in outline as follows:⁽⁴⁷⁾

* Apparently a mistake for *Dutch East Indies (Philippines) Unit Order Classified No. 3*. See p. 94.

Air power

1. It seems that although most of the U.S. air power in the Philippines was destroyed, an element escaped to the Dutch East Indies and is planning a counterattack along with British and Dutch air forces.
2. The Dutch East Indies air force is estimated roughly as follows. The force seems to conduct air campaigns using Ambon, Kendari, Balikpapan and Sorong as first line concentration bases, and Menado, Gorontalo, Ternate and Tarakan as the relay bases.
 - (1) Army aircraft

Bombers: Glenn L. Martin, Lockheed, etc.	90 – 100	aircraft
Fighter planes: Curtiss Hawk, etc.	90 – 100	aircraft
Patrol bombers: Douglas, etc.	20 – 25	aircraft
Training aircraft	70 – 80	aircraft
In total:	270 – 305	aircraft
 - (2) Navy aircraft

Flying boats: PBY, Dornier, etc.	40 – 60	aircraft
Reconnaissance seaplanes and attack planes: Dornier, Fokker	25 – 50	aircraft
Training aircraft	20 – 25	aircraft
In total:	85 – 135	aircraft
Grand total:	355 – 440	aircraft
First line aircraft in the above:	265 – 335	aircraft
3. It seems that about 100 aircraft of the Australian air force have advanced to Ambon and Kupang.

Naval forces

1. Almost all of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was destroyed in the strike against Hawaii at the beginning of the hostilities, and it is for the time being unlikely that the fleet will carry out a transoceanic attack with its main force.
2. Although the situation of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet from the time of the opening of hostilities is unclear, it is more or less certain that it has already escaped to Celebes and further south.
3. Although the situation of the British fleet in the East after the complete destruction of its main force is also unclear, it is highly likely that in the days ahead the U.S. and British fleets in the East will put up defensive battles mainly in the waters of the Dutch East Indies and Australia, in league with the Dutch East Indies fleet.
4. The strength of the Dutch East Indies fleet is estimated as follows: 2 light cruisers, 8 destroyers, 15-19 submarines, 3 gunboats or coastal defense ships, 6 minelayers, 8 minesweepers, 7 torpedo boats and 32 other ships
5. Surface war vessels of the enemy sometimes appear at Tarakan, Menado, Sorong and other places.
6. Although some of the U.S., British and Dutch submarines have already been lost, a major part of the strength still infests all areas. It is anticipated that in the days ahead more and more will go into action particularly in the Dutch East Indies waters. It seems that the enemy submarines are concentrated outside Davao Gulf and in the southern part of the Celebes Sea, which led to frequent alarms given against them.
7. In view of the geographical features and the armaments of the Dutch East Indies, it is required to be on the alert against enemy mines [particularly] in the Java Sea as well as in the southern part of the South China Sea.

Ground forces

1. The Dutch East Indies Army is [estimated at] about 100,000 men in total, consisting of about 75,000 men of the regular army and 25,000 men of the voluntary army and the police force; the total mobilizable force is assumed to be 120,000 men.
2. It appears that of the ground forces the main force (about 60,000 men) is stationed in Java, while the forces, which we face at each of the key locations in the eastern part of the Dutch East Indies, are deployed in the following way:

Tarakan	3,000	Menado	2,500
Ternate	200	Balikpapan	1,500
Kendari	150	Makassar	1,500
Banjarmasin	1,000	Ambon	1,200
Kupang	350		

3. There are about 900 Australian troops in Ambon.

4. Conclusion of the Army-Navy Agreement for the Java Invasion [Operation]

The First [Scheduled] Army-Navy Meeting is Moved up

None of the documents regarding the Central Agreement of 5 November that specified the details of the operation schedule are extant. However, according to documents related to the agreement,⁽⁵⁴⁾ it seems that IGHQ planned to aim at landing on the island of Java roughly around Day X + 100 (18 March) and completing the southern operation by Day X + 120, that is, in about four months from the launch of operations. As a matter of fact, it would have suited both the Army and the Navy if [the operation] were completed sooner. However, in view of the [available] shipping tonnage of the transport ships carrying the invasion units, the shipping operations, the tempo of advancing the air bases, and the distribution of vessels for escorting, etc., [both the Army and the Navy] for the moment set the target [date] at four months [from the launch of the operations].

However, Southern Army headquarters, which was most keen on shortening the schedule of the southern operation, strongly insisted at the Tokyo Agreement [conference] on an agreement to complete the operations in about three months, shortening the period in the plan drawn up by IGHQ by about one month.⁽³⁴⁾ The Navy, being in charge of implementing the air operations as well as the escort operations, was of the opinion that that plan was not feasible, and that an allowance of at least one month should absolutely be taken into account.⁽¹¹⁾ Also, the Army Department of IGHQ did not entirely agree to the [Southern Army's] plan [to complete the operation] in three months, mainly in terms of the [available] shipping tonnage of transport ships. However, in the end, owing to the strong insistence of the Southern Army headquarters, it was agreed to set [the scheduled date of] the landing on Java on "by and large around Day X + 80" (26 February) in the Tokyo Agreement, and to strive to realize this as the target date. That line was taken in the Iwakuni Agreement as well and agreed to in the same way.⁽³⁴⁾

However, as the progress in the initial stages of the war was better than expected, the Southern Army headquarters judged it advantageous to make use of the war momentum

and direct the operations on the concept of a strategic pursuit. Accordingly, at its staff meeting on 20 December, it decided on a plan to advance [the starting date of] the Java landing [operation] by ten days to Day X + 70 (16 February; and set the [date of] completion of the operation on Day X + 90). It wired this proposal to [the Army Department of] IGHQ and also informed the Navy side of its intentions.⁽³⁰⁾

Just then on the next day, 21 December, Hattori Takushirō, chief of the Operations Section of the Office of Army General Staff [who also belonged to the Army Department of IGHQ], and his party arrived on site [Saigon]. The Southern Army headquarters explained the plan to shorten the schedule with the proviso that in order to execute it a further increase in the allotment of ships to the Southern Army by about 150,000 tons was required. Agreeing to the plan, Section Chief Hattori personally sent a telegram to [the Army Department of] IGHQ. Based on the proposal of the Southern Army, [the Army Department of] IGHQ held meetings with the Navy and also examined [the possibility of] increasing the shipping tonnage. However in the end, on 27 December, it replied to the Southern Army that an increase in tonnage was simply impossible.⁽⁴⁰⁾ Having no other choice, the Southern Army headquarters studied the means to shorten the [invasion] schedule by using [just] the ships it had under its control at that time (though loss would be replenished). After changing parts of the plan in such a way that the forces taking part in the Sixteenth Army be reduced to some extent and that the shift and transfer of [other] forces be avoided as much as possible, [the Southern Army] tentatively drew up a final draft.⁽³⁰⁾

In the meantime, problems that needed to be discussed by the Army and Navy commanders were piling up also on the Navy side, including the situation of recent enemy reinforcements brought up from Australia (mainly by way of Port Darwin), [which led the Navy to think that] it was urgently necessary to swiftly seize the Ambon – Kupang line. Consequently, without waiting until the scheduled date of the first [Army-Navy] meeting which was set on Day X + 40 (17 January) in the Tokyo Agreement, the Southern Army and the Navy Southern Task Force summoned the staff officers of the relevant units under their command to Cam Ranh Bay on 29 December, to discuss matters on the flagship of the Second Fleet *Atago*, which had anchored in the bay. This was the Cam Ranh Agreement [conference].

Conclusion of the Cam Ranh Agreement and the Shortening of the Invasion Schedule

The Cam Ranh Agreement [conference] was held on the *Atago* on 29 December, and on 1 January 1942, the agreement was signed. Firstly, prior to the conclusion of the agreement, the operational directives for the southern operation from that time onwards were discussed and decided upon as follows:^(30, 33, 34, 40, 62)

1. [The schedule of] the Dutch East Indies operation shall further be advanced from that in the former plan, and [the operation] shall be completed in three months from the opening of hostilities. That is, the Java landing [operation] shall be launched on Day X + 70 (16 February).
2. [The schedule of] the capture of Singapore shall [also] be moved up by about one month from the anticipated date in the former plan, which was about the 100th day from the opening of hostilities. [In the new plan], the fall [of the city] is expected in the beginning of February.
3. Prior to the landing on Java, Bangka and Palembang shall be seized after bypassing Singapore as swiftly as possible.

4. The time to capture Ambon and Kupang shall be fixed and moved up; it shall be carried out in parallel with the capture of Celebes.
5. Taking advantage of the current war situation, the Burma operation shall be pushed forward and intensified; the northern Sumatra invasion operation shall be implemented after the fall of Singapore.
6. The starting point of the operations to seize Tarakan, Menado and Ambon shall be changed from Palau to Davao.
7. The Army's plan for operating its units
 - (1) Although at first the plan was to allot four divisions to the Malay Peninsula and Singapore operations, three divisions are sufficient [to do the job]. So, the diversion of the 56th Division to the Burma theater must be considered.
 - (2) The capture of Ambon and Kupang shall be assigned to Detachment B ([consisting of] three battalions of the 38th Division), which shall be extracted from [the unit in] Hong Kong. The South Seas Detachment (which was scheduled to join the Dutch East Indies operation after capturing Guam and Rabaul) shall henceforth not be employed for the southwestern theater.
 - (3) At the request of the Navy, the Kawaguchi Detachment shall carry out the [operation to] capture Ledo (which shall be explained later).
 - (4) Due to the [shortage of] shipping tonnage, the force of the Sixteenth Army for the Java invasion [operation] shall be slightly reduced.
8. The Navy's plan for operating its units concerned
 - (1) The 2d Carrier Division ([consisting of] two aircraft carriers as the core) shall be employed from the time of the Ambon operation; the redeployment of the main force of the Carrier Task Force to the southern theater shall be considered at the time of invasion of Java.
 - (2) As the Ledo airfield, which was lately spotted, is essential for the operation against the Dutch East Indies, it is hoped that an Army unit shall swiftly seize it.
 - (3) A submarine base shall be set up at Penang ([off] the northwestern coast of Malaya) for operations in the Indian Ocean.
 - (4) In order to bring the Malacca Strait under control, one element of the land-based air units shall be advanced to the Malay Peninsula.
 - (5) After the capture of southern Sumatra, naval air units shall advance there in order to conduct the air campaign against Java and to cut off Malaya from its rear.

In accordance with the above general operational directives, the agreement was concluded in outline as follows:^(34, 62)

1. Standard dates [to implement] the invasion [operations]

Date of the start of the landings	Key areas to capture (*stands for the areas which the Navy will capture unassisted)	Assembly Point	Commanders to conclude the arrangements
Day X + 33 (10 Jan)	*Menado and Tarakan, and vicinities	Davao or Jolo	Cdr in chief 3d Fleet and 16th Army Cdr
Day X + 43 (20 Jan)	*Kendari and Balikpapan, and vicinities	Menado and Tarakan	
Day X + 48 (25 Jan)	Ambon	Davao	

Day X + 53 (30 Jan)	*Makassar and Banjarmasin, and vicinities	Kendari and Balikpapan	
Roughly Day X + 60 (6 Feb)	Bangka and Palembang [and vicinities]	Cam Ranh	Cdr in chief Southern Expeditionary Fleet and 16th Army Cdr
Roughly Day X + 65 (11 Feb)	Kupang	Ambon	Cdr in chief 3d Fleet and 16th Army Cdr
Roughly Day X + 70 (16 Feb)	Java	At Luzon for eastern Java At Gaoxiong for western Java	Ditto
Roughly Day X + 80 (26 Feb)	Northern Sumatra	Penang	Cdr in chief Southern Expeditionary Fleet and 25th Army Cdr
[Particulars for] other [targets] shall be decided on in arrangements [between] the highest commanders of the Army and the Navy of each area.			

2. The Army convoys to be directly escorted by the Navy

Sakaguchi Det (about 10 ships)

Det B (about 7 ships)

Main force of the 38th Div (about 18 ships)

Main force of the 16th Army (about 50 ships)

48th Div (about 50 ships)

Davao–Tarakan–Balikpapan–Banjarmasin

Hong Kong–Davao–Ambon–Kupang

Hong Kong–Cam Ranh Bay–Bangka

Gaoxiong–Cam Ranh Bay–western Java

Manila–Menado–eastern Java

The characteristics of this agreement were as follows:

1. Comparison of the dates [to implement] the invasion [operations] (as in the following table):

Key Areas to capture	Comparison of Schedules			Notes
	Tokyo Agreement	Iwakuni Agreement	Cam Ranh Agreement	
Menado	Around Day X + 23	Roughly at the same time with the capture of Tarakan	Day X + 33	1. As Davao and Jolo were captured behind schedule, the launch of the Tarakan and the Menado operations were put off for some days so as to be launched on the same day. After that, the operations in eastern Borneo and eastern Celebes shall be carried out in parallel, and the simultaneous advance on the line connecting Banjarmasin and Makassar shall be made 17 days before the landing on Java. 2. The Army was not so willing to advance [the date of] the Ambon invasion [operation], and had in mind that it should be launched around Day X + 60, as in the Iwakuni Agreement. However, [the Army] was persuaded by the Navy, [which insisted on]
Tarakan	[By] around Day X + 25	Day X + 30	Day X + 33	
Kendari	Around Day X + 35		Day X + 43	

Balikpapan	Around Day X + 35	Day X + 35	Day X + 43	moving up [the schedule], and the date was set on Day X + 48.⁽³⁰⁾ 3. Because of the advance of [the operation to] capture Java, [the need of] the operation to capture Bali [first] automatically disappeared. 4. The Army insisted that the capture of Bangka and Palembang [should be scheduled] 20 days before the Java operation (i.e. Day X + 50), as an important stepping stone before the landing [operation] in western* Java, without waiting for the capture of Singapore. However, due to the availability of escort forces and the preparation of air bases of the Navy, it was set on Day X + 60.
Makassar	Around Day X + 45	Day X + 54	Day X + 53	
Banjar-masin	By and large around Day X + 50	Day X + 54	Day X + 53	
Ambon	By around Day X + 60	Day X + 60	Day X + 48	
Kupang	By around Day X + 60		Roughly Day X+ 65	
Bali		Day X + 70		
Bangka/ Palembang	By and large around Day X + 80		Roughly Day X+ 60	
Java	By and large around Day X + 80		Roughly Day X+ 70	
Northern Sumatra			Roughly Day X+ 80	

2. Employment of the units

- (1) It seems that the employment of the Navy 1001 Unit (a paratrooper unit) was not yet decided.⁽⁴⁷⁾
- (2) The plan was that the capture of Ambon and Kupang should be carried out with Detachment B for the Army, while [the Navy] would redeploy the 1st Kure Special Landing Force, which was then in Legaspi (in the Philippines). Although the strength of the Detachment B was decided on as two battalions as the core in the Iwakuni Agreement, it was further increased by one battalion in view of the latest enemy movements.^(30, 34)
- (3) Although the employment of the aircraft carrier unit was not yet decided except for the 2d Carrier Division's participation in [the operation to] capture Ambon, it seems to have been under consideration to employ [the aircraft carrier unit] at the time of the Java invasion operation.^(30, 40)

3. Changes in the assembly points

Although the assembly points of the units to capture Tarakan, Menado and Ambon were all designated as Palau in the Tokyo Agreement and the Iwakuni Agreement, they were changed to Davao in this agreement. It was because Davao was more advantageous in terms of geography and the capacity of its base.^(11, 34)

* The text mistakenly has *eastern Java*.

5. Issuing the Phase-Two Plan of Operations, etc.

The Southern Task Force

On the verge of phase-two operations, Southern Task Force Commander Vice Admiral Kondō transmitted by telegram the mission of the Dutch East Indies operation and the immediate operational directives, which were in summary as follows:⁽⁶²⁾

1. The order to [shift to] the phase-two disposition of forces and the operational directives
At 1200 on 26 December, the Southern Task Force issued the order to put in motion [the shift to] the phase-two disposition of forces by Telegraphic Order No. 35. It gave official notice of the [new] disposition of forces and disclosed the tasks of each unit.
2. The orders for the mission of the submarine operations and the setting-up of a submarine base
The order was issued to incorporate the 11th Submarine Base Unit, which had been transferred to the Southern Task Force on 27 December, into the Malaya Unit, to set up a submarine base at Penang ([by] Telegraphic Order No. 39), and to designate the subsequent operational areas of the three submarine units belonging to the Southern Task Force ([also by] Telegraphic Order No. 39).
3. Present operational directives for the main body of the Southern Task Force
On 28 December, the Southern Task Force commander issued the order by Telegraphic Order No. 40, which was in summary as follows:⁽⁶³⁾
 - (1) The Malaya Unit shall leave Magong on 31 December and take charge of escorting the transport of the main force of the Twenty-fifth Army and others scheduled to land in the Singora and Saigon areas in the beginning of January. The Dutch East Indies Unit shall launch the scheduled invasion [operations] of the Tarakan and Menado areas around 10 January.
 - (2–4) Support for the Malaya operations (Omitted by the author)
 - (5) The Eastern Support Unit shall leave Magong [at a time] designated by its commander, advance to [the waters] in between Palau and Mindanao around dawn of 10 January and, after supporting the operations of Unit H (the unit to conduct the Dutch East Indies operation), drop anchor at Palau.
 - (6) The main unit is scheduled to leave Cam Ranh Bay on 9 January and, after replenishing at Magong, depart on the 14th to advance to Palau.

[With these orders] Vice Admiral Kondō, commander of the Southern Task Force, judging that the end of the operation in the Malaya area, which he had primarily supported so far, was now in sight, showed that he meant to shift his position to the support of [the operation in] the area of the main force of the Dutch East Indies Unit, which was finally about to be launched.

The [Navy] Dutch East Indies [Operation] Unit

On 28 December, Dutch East Indies Unit Commander Vice Admiral Takahashi issued the immediate outline of the disposition of forces and the schedule. Following the 29 December agreement with the Army at Cam Ranh Bay, he issued the operation plan by way of Dutch East Indies (Philippines) Unit Order Classified No. 3 of the same date. According to the “Matsudaira documents,”⁽⁴⁷⁾ the main points were as follows:

Note:

1. It seems that some elements in the last part of this plan are missing [in this document].

2. It would seem that this document was taken down from a copy of the operation plan of 29 December that included revisions that had been made by 5 or 6 January. (This is assumed from the scheduled date to capture Kupang, which was advanced to 5 February from 11 February, as well as from the allotment of tasks to the 2d Destroyer Squadron and the 1st Base Force.)

1. The situation of enemy and friendly forces

- (1) Almost all of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was destroyed in the strike at the beginning of the hostilities, and it is for the time being unlikely that the fleet will carry out a transoceanic attack with its main force.
- (2) It is very likely that in the days ahead the remnants of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet and the British fleet in the East will put up defensive battles mainly in the waters of the Dutch East Indies and Australia, in league with the Dutch East Indies fleet.
- (3) Although some of the U.S., British and Dutch submarines have already been lost, a major part [of the strength] still infests all areas. It is anticipated that in the days ahead more and more will go into action particularly in the Dutch East Indies waters.
- (4) It seems that although most of the U.S. air units in the Philippines were destroyed, an element escaped to the Dutch East Indies and is planning a counterattack along with British and Dutch air forces.
- (5) In view of the geographical features and the armaments of the Dutch East Indies, it is required to be on the alert against enemy mines [particularly] in the Java Sea as well as in the southern part of the South China Sea.
- (6) The Air Unit of the Southern Task Force has already advanced a part of its force to Davao and Jolo, and is conducting operations against Area H (the Dutch East Indies). The deployment is expected to be completed by around 5 January.
- (7) The 2d Carrier Division (consisting of the *Sōryū* and the *Hiryū* as its core) is scheduled to be incorporated into the Air Unit of the Southern Task Force around 16 January.
- (8) The 6th Submarine Squadron is conducting operations in Area H, as shown in Separate Illustration No. 2. (No separate illustrations are attached.)
- (9) Our army units invading the Philippines and Malaya are steadily enlarging their military gains and charging toward Manila and Singapore respectively.

2. Mission

In accordance with the mission [stated] in Philippines Unit Operation Order Classified No. 1, the Dutch East Indies Unit shall, on the one hand, in conjunction with the Air Unit of the Southern Task Force as well as the Sixteenth Army, first seize Tarakan and Menado, and then strategic locations on the Makassar Strait, the Moluccas Sea, and the Banda Sea one after another, and push forward its attack, while on the other hand, in cooperation and in concert with the Southern Expeditionary Fleet and the Malaya Invasion Army, advance the preparations to encircle Java to swiftly attack Java at the core.

3. Outline of the operation

- (1) Especially by maintaining close cooperation and coordination with the friendly air units, the attack shall be pushed forward after having as far as possible established command of the air.
- (2) Powerful direct escort forces shall be deployed against the enemy's submarine warfare and mine warfare, and through a close cooperation of these [escort forces], base units and air units, it shall be made doubly sure that the surface escort and landing cover will be flawless.
- (3) [Sufficient] escort forces shall be deployed so that those on site will be able to defeat the enemy surface forces. [They] shall make efforts to catch and destroy the latter in concert with powerful support units and friendly air units, which will [also] search for the enemy and attack them.

- (4) The main purpose of the capture of strategic locations in the Dutch East Indies is to neutralize and seize important enemy air bases with the aim to advance in parallel in the east and the west roughly according to the following order and schedule:

{1} Eastern side of Celebes and the Banda Sea

[Conducted] by the Navy [unassisted]: Manado (around 10 January) → Kendari (around 20 January) → Makassar (shall be seized at a favorable opportunity between 25 January and 14 February)

[Conducted] independently by the Army: Ambon (around 25 January) → Kupang (around 5 February)

{2} The Makassar Strait area and eastern Java

In conjunction with the Army: Tarakan (around 10 January) → Balikpapan (around 20 January) → Banjarmasin (around 30 January) → Surabaya (around 16 February)

Depending on the situation, Makassar shall be seized around 5 February, and Bali shall be captured almost simultaneously with the capture of Surabaya in conjunction with the Army.

{3} Western Java

In conjunction with the Army: Batavia area (around 16 February)

4. The distribution of forces (as shown in the following table)

Unit		Commander	Forces
Main Unit			16th Cruiser Div (minus 2d Section)
Western Attack Unit	1st Escort Unit	4th Destroyer Sqdn Cdr	4th Destroyer Sqdn (minus 4th Destroyer Div), one element of 2d Base Force, 2d Kure SLF (minus 1 plt), Patrol Boats Nos. 36*, 37, and 38
	2d Base Unit	2d Base Force Cdr	Major part of 2d Base Force and the <i>Itsukushima</i>
	1st Air Unit	Capt of the <i>San'yō-maru</i>	The <i>San'yō-maru</i> , the <i>Sanuki-maru</i> , Patrol Boat No. 39, 1 plt of 2d Kure SLF, the <i>Kureha-maru</i> , No. 3, and 4 fishing boats
	3d Escort Unit	5th Destroyer Sqdn Cdr	5th Destroyer Sqdn, one element of 1st Base Force, one element of 2d Base Force (after the 5th Destroyer Sqdn is returned from the Malaya Unit)
Eastern Attack Unit	Support Unit	5th Cruiser Div Cdr	5th Cruiser Div, 6th Destroyer Div 2d Section
	2d Escort Unit	2d Destroyer Sqdn Cdr	2d Destroyer Sqdn (minus 4th** and 18th Destroyer Divs), 1st Kure SLF (minus one element), Sasebo Combined SLF (minus 2 plts), Patrol Boats Nos. 1, 2, and 34
	1st Base Unit	1st Base Force Cdr	One element of 1st Base Force and the <i>Nagara</i>
	2d Air Unit	11th Seaplane Tender Div Cdr	11th Seaplane Tender Div, the <i>Kiku-maru</i> , Patrol Boat, No. 35, 2 plts of Sasebo Combined SLF, some fishing boats
Eastern Philippines Unit		32d Special Base Force Cdr	32d Special Base Force, 1st Gunboat Div, 51st Subchaser Div, 6 reconnaissance seaplanes, one element of 1st Kure SLF
Western Philippines Unit		17th Minelayer Div Cdr	17th Minelayer Div (minus the <i>Itsukushima</i> , and the <i>Tatsumiya-maru</i>), 3d Gunboat Div, 53d Subchaser Div, the <i>Kuma</i>
Attached Units			1st, 2d, 3d, 5th and 6th Construction Squads, and others

* The text mistakenly has 3, 16.

** Probably a mistake, since a *4th Destroyer Div* is also mentioned in the second row, third column.

5. Tasks of each unit

(1) Main Unit

Staying on alert in Malalag Bay, it shall make a sortie, depending on the enemy situation, to Celebes and the Makassar Strait area to mainly cover the Western Attack Unit.

(2) Western Attack Unit

{1} 1st Escort Unit

Escorting the Sakaguchi Detachment, it shall leave Davao around 7 January, cast anchor [off] Tarakan at the waters east of Cape Batu, put ashore the detachment and capture [the place] in conjunction, secure the air base and advance the air force of the Eleventh Air Fleet.

[Then] it shall have the 2d Kure Special Landing Force replace the Army Sakaguchi Detachment and leave Tarakan around 18 January, escorting the detachment. Having suppressed the [enemy] air power, it shall put the detachment ashore in the Balikpapan area before dawn around 20 January and in conjunction seize the air base and resource locations, and then advance the air force of the Eleventh Air Fleet.

After that, having gained command of the air, it shall leave Balikpapan around 28 January, escorting one element of the Sakaguchi Detachment, enter into Banjarmasin before dawn around 30 January and seize the enemy air base. During this period, it shall keep close communication with the 1st Air Unit (seaplane tender unit), clear enemy submarines and prepare against enemy surface forces.

Separate orders shall be given when the cooperation of the 1001 Unit (a paratrooper unit) is available.

{2} 2d Base Unit

After making arrangements with the 1st Escort Unit commander, it shall incorporate primarily its minesweeper divisions and subchaser* divisions into the 1st Escort Unit for the period required. The remaining unit shall defend the key locations of Tarakan, Balikpapan and others, while protecting the shipping lanes, as well as escorting and covering empty Army ships.

{3} 1st Air Unit (a seaplane tender unit)

It shall advance its bases to places where necessary, and cooperate with the 1st Escort Unit by guarding against [enemy] submarines as well as by supporting the landing attacks.

{4} 3d Escort Unit

After returning to the Dutch East Indies Unit, it shall sail to Gaoxiong, from where it shall escort the main force of the Sixteenth Army, leaving Gaoxiong (Magong for one element) on 30 January to head for Cam Ranh Bay. It shall leave the bay on 11 February and put [the Army unit] ashore in Batavia and vicinity on 16 February. Cooperation by the force of the Southern Expeditionary Fleet shall be provided for one part [of the operation].

(It may [also] escort with one element the ship(s) carrying the 101st Fuel Depot.)

(3) Eastern Attack Unit

{1} Support Unit

While covering and supporting the [operation to] seize Menado, Kendari, Ambon, Makassar, Kupang, etc. conducted by the Eastern Attack Unit, it shall prepare against the maneuvers of enemy surface forces from the direction of Australia.

{2} 2d Escort Unit

Leaving Davao on 8 January, it shall seize Menado in a sudden attack before dawn on 10 January, secure and ready the air base to advance the forces of the Eleventh Air Fleet.

Next, it shall have one element participate in a sudden attack on Kendari to be conducted

* The text mistakenly has *destroyer*.

before dawn around 20 January under the command of the 1st Base Force commander, while covering [the operation] with the bulk of its force. After that, the unit shall escort Army Detachment B to Ambon from Menado (it is supposed to have escorted [the detachment] from Davao to Menado with one element of the 2d Escort Unit [beforehand] after the seizure of Menado), seize Ambon around 25 January and secure the airfield [there]. Then, [the unit] shall further escort Detachment B (one element of which shall be left in Ambon, depending on the situation) and make preparations to seize Kupang roughly on 5 February in conjunction with the detachment.

While keeping in contact with the 2d Air Unit (seaplane tender unit), the unit shall clear enemy submarines and prepare against enemy surface forces.

Separate order(s) shall be given when the 1001 Unit is to be employed [in the relevant operations].

(3) 1st Base Unit

After making arrangements with the 2d Escort Unit commander, it shall incorporate one element of its minesweeper divisions and subchaser divisions into the 2d Escort Unit for the period required, while guarding the Bangka anchorage after the capture of Menado. Then, with the major part of the unit, and also taking command of one element of the 2d Escort Unit, it shall make a sudden attack on Kendari before dawn on around 20 January under the cover of the 2d Escort Unit, secure the air base [there] to advance the air forces of the Eleventh Air Fleet.

After that, it shall take charge of defending key locations and protecting the shipping lanes, mainly those to Menado.

Depending on the circumstances, it shall seize Makassar.

The incorporation of the minesweeper divisions and subchaser divisions into the 3d Escort Unit at the time of the landing of the main force of the Sixteenth Army shall be arranged with the 5th Destroyer Squadron commander.

(4) 2d Air Unit (a seaplane tender unit)

It shall advance its bases to the points required and cooperate with the 2d Escort Unit by guarding against [enemy] submarines and supporting the landing operations.

(4) Eastern Philippines Unit

It shall take charge of guarding key locations such as Davao, Legaspi, Jolo and Malalag, etc., protecting the shipping lanes in the east of the Philippines, and replenishing the naval units operating in the vicinity.

(5) Western Philippines Unit

While guarding Lingayen Gulf to secure the line of communications of the main force of the Fourteenth Army to its rear, the unit shall, depending on the situation, advance to Manila Bay to take charge of clearing and defending the bay as well as protecting the shipping lanes to the west of the Philippines.

This order differed from the outline of the disposition of forces on 28 December and from the Cam Ranh Agreement on the following points:^(47, 53, 62)

1. The differences from the outline of the disposition of forces

Because at the end of December there was advance information that a Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet would be formed in the beginning of January to take charge of the Philippines area, the disposition of forces was altered in the following way:

- (1) The 17th Minelayer Division commander shall be appointed commander of the Western Philippines Unit. The 17th Minelayer Division (minus the *Itsukushima* and the *Tatsumiyamaru*) shall be added to the unit, and 2d Base Force and one element of the 2d Signal Unit shall be removed.

- (2) The *Itsukushima* shall be added to the 2d Base Force, from which the mine-laying unit shall be removed.
- (3) The *Kuma* shall be removed from the 2d Base Force, and added to the Western Philippines Unit.

[The change] that the Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet would take over the operations in the Philippines areas from the Third Fleet was meant to have the latter concentrate on its operations in the Dutch East Indies. The formation [of the new fleet] was planned as follows: The *Kuma* (planned as the flagship), the *Yaeyama*, the 31st Special Base Force, the 32d Special Base Force, the 3d Gunboat Division, the 2d Survey Unit, the *Kyōdō-maru* No. 36.*

For this purpose, the 17th Minelayer Division was disbanded; the commander R. Adm. Kobayashi Tetsuri and the staff of the division were transferred to the newly formed 31st Special Base Force and advanced to the Manila area. The *Itsukushima* and the *Tatsumiya-maru* of the 17th Minelayer Division were attached to the Third Fleet, while the *Yaeyama* was to be incorporated into the Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet.

2. The differences from the Cam Ranh Agreement

- (1) Whereas in the [Cam Ranh] Agreement, the seizure of Makassar was scheduled for around 30 January with no provisos attached, in this order it was mentioned in one part that "[Makassar] shall be seized at a favorable opportunity between 25 January and 14 February by the Navy [unassisted]," and in other parts that "Depending on the situation, Makassar shall be seized around 5 February, ... in conjunction with the Army," "Depending on the circumstances, the 1st Base Force shall seize Makassar." [Consequently, the schedule of] the seizure [of Makassar] was not clearly designated as 30 January.

This was because the operations of the Eastern Attack Unit had become very tight due to the increase of lines of operations from the two that were in the initial plan of the Dutch East Indies Unit (Tarakan – Balikpapan – Banjarmasin, and Manado – Kendari – Makassar) to three (the Ambon – Kupang line was added). That is to say, the destroyers of the 2d Destroyer Squadron had to be transferred back and forth between the Squadron and the 1st Base Force every five days, so as to realize the two lines of attack in the east (Manado on the 10th of January, Kendari on the 20th, Ambon on the 25th, Makassar on the 30th, and Kupang on the 5th of February), which made it totally impossible to schedule [the operation to seize] Makassar on the 30th.⁽¹¹⁾

On top of that, there were two other problems about [the operation to] seize Makassar:

- {1} It was quite dangerous to advance from Kendari to Makassar by sailing around the south of Celebes, because it meant that on their way [the ships] would expose their flank to Kupang, one of the leading air bases of the enemy at a distance of merely 300 nautical miles.
- {2} Because Makassar was a strategic outpost of Java, it was assumed that the enemy had also deployed considerably powerful ground forces there. Although it had been decided to seize this place only with the naval landing forces, there was some concern about the strength of these landing units, if part of this force was also employed in the Ambon theater.

For these reasons the Dutch East Indies Unit seemed more strongly inclined to seize Kupang first, rather than Makassar, so that it could go to Makassar after having eliminated the concern [of being attacked] on its flank. This [feeling] was reflected in the phrase "...at a favorable opportunity between 25 January and 14 February...;" while the concern about the shortage of ground forces was expressed in the part "Depending on the situation, ... in conjunction with the Army."

In any case, the Dutch East Indies Unit was not sure that it would be able to implement [the operation to] seize Makassar precisely on 30 January. This was probably why the unit, because

* The text mistakenly has No. 3.

of the great many uncertain elements, used rather evasive expressions, even though the schedule of the seizure was decided on in the agreements.

- (2) Whereas [the operation to] capture Bali had automatically disappeared in the Cam Ranh Agreement, this order stated that “Depending on the situation, ... Bali shall be captured almost simultaneously with the capture of Surabaya” ([the capture of Bali had been scheduled] ten days prior to the capture of Java in the Iwakuni Agreement).

This reflected the demand of the Eleventh Air Fleet, which wanted to cut off Java from its rear in a most effective way by capturing Bali with a small unit (of course, solely by the Navy) simultaneously with [the capture of] Surabaya. Needless to say, since it was a landing simultaneous with the landing in the Surabaya area, it did not mean that [the Eleventh Air Fleet] intended to conduct an air campaign to destroy the enemy air power on the main island of Java from Bali.^(20, 64)

Although the Dutch East Indies Unit showed little enthusiasm for making a landing just like that right under the nose of Surabaya, it seems that due to the strong demand of the Eleventh Air Fleet, it tentatively expressed in the order the possibility of capturing [Bali].⁽¹¹⁾

- (3) Whereas the capture of Kupang was scheduled for Day X + 65 (11 February) in the Cam Ranh Agreement, it was [moved up to] 5 February in this order. The reason may be attributed to the strong desire of the Navy to capture Kupang as soon as possible in order to [safely] advance to Makassar as well as to neutralize [the threat from] Australia. It seems that because the Eleventh Air Fleet was particularly adamant about capturing the Ambon – Kupang line, the Third Fleet as well moved up the date, following the demand [of the Eleventh Air Fleet].⁽²⁰⁾ (The change [of schedule] was made around 5-6 January.)

The Air Unit (*See Illustration No. 1*)

When [the order to shift to] phase-two dispositions was put into effect on 26 December, the Air Unit of the Southern Task Force, with some elements advancing to Davao and Jolo, were shifting to their positions for the launch of the Dutch East Indies operation. However, the condition of the airfields in Davao and Jolo was unexpectedly bad (the ground of [the airfield in] Davao was soft, and frequent squalls hindered the progress of the rolling of the apron, while [the airfield in] Jolo had a large inclination and the field undulated),⁽⁵⁴⁾ which meant that the immediate deployment of all forces was impossible. On the other hand, the air operations in the Malaya area had progressed smoothly, and it became unnecessary to conduct operations from Miri and Kuching ([in] British Borneo) to Malaya. Therefore, on the grounds that the operation plan needed to be reexamined and the like, the unit obtained the prior approval of the Combined Fleet and the Second Fleet headquarters and postponed putting in motion its shift to phase-two dispositions until 2 January.⁽¹²⁾

In the meantime, V. Adm. Tsukahara Nishizō, commander of the Air Unit, had not only launched the Dutch East Indies operation with the part of the forces that had been advanced to the southern Philippines, but also accelerated the construction work at the Davao and Jolo bases and the deployment of his forces, while at the same time striving to clear the remnants of the enemy forces in the Philippines with his main force. Meanwhile, the deployment of forces for the operations in the Malaya area from British Borneo had become unnecessary, and no reinforcements needed to be brought to Kuching and Miri from the east. Therefore, he made changes in the operational plan and offered his opinion to step up [the operation to] seize Ambon, which he had put on hold due to a lack of strength; it was decided to seize the place in late January.⁽⁵⁸⁾

On 2 January, Air Unit Commander Vice Admiral Tsukahara transmitted [the order to] put in motion the shift to phase-two dispositions by way of Telegraphic Operation Order No. 19. The outline of the Air Unit's operation plan at that moment was as follows:⁽⁵⁴⁾

1. Each air raid unit commander shall engage in the assigned operations in conformity with the phase-two disposition of forces, unless otherwise ordered by separate orders.
2. Support for the invasion operation in the Dutch East Indies areas shall be implemented according to [the directives of] the operational area of each air raid unit as shown separately.
3. The operational border of the 1st and the 2d Air Raid Units has been tentatively decided on as the line of 122° E.
4. Phase-two disposition of forces (inferred) (as shown in the following table)

Unit		Commander	Force	Main Tasks
Air Unit of the Southern Task Force	1st Air Raid Unit	Cdr, 21st Air Flotilla (in Davao as of 27 Dec)	Kanoya Air Gp Det, Tōkō Air Gp, 1st and 3d Air Gps, 1st Yokosuka SLF	Support for the Eastern Attack Unit (to seize Menado, Kendari, Ambon, Makassar, Kupang, and Bali)
	2d Air Raid Unit	Cdr, 23d Air Flotilla (in Jolo as of 3 Jan)	Takao Air Gp, Tainan Air Gp, 3d Yokosuka SLF	Support for the Western Attack Unit (to seize Tarakan, Balikpapan and Banjarmasin)
	Carrier-based Air Unit	Cdr, 2d Carrier Div	The <i>Sōryū</i> , the <i>Hiryū</i> , 7th Destroyer Div, 27th Destroyer Div 2d Section	Support for [the operation to] capture Ambon

Note: The 2d Carrier Division was supposed to advance to Davao on 17 January

5. The invasion [operation] shall be scheduled as follows:
Menado on 10 January, Kendari on 20 January, Ambon on 25 January, Makassar on 30 January (on the 28th, depending on the situation), Kupang on 5 February, Bali on 11 February, Tarakan on 10 January (on the 11th, depending on the situation), Balikpapan on 20 January, Banjarmasin on 30 January, Palembang during 1 to 6 February, Surabaya and Batavia on 16 February.
6. When the operations in the Malaya area are largely completed and the Dutch East Indies operation is about to be launched, the forces under the command of the 22d Air Flotilla (which had been transferred to the Malaya Unit) shall return to the Air Unit except for one element, and participate in the air campaign against the Dutch East Indies from Ledo and Palembang as the 3d Air Raid Unit.

The situation of the Air Unit's shift of its bases is as shown in *Illustration No. 1*.

The Submarine Unit

At the time of the shift to phase-two disposition of forces put into effect on 26 December, Southern Task Force Commander Vice Admiral Kondō removed the 5th Submarine Squadron from the Malaya Unit to form Submarine Unit B as the submarine unit under the direct com-

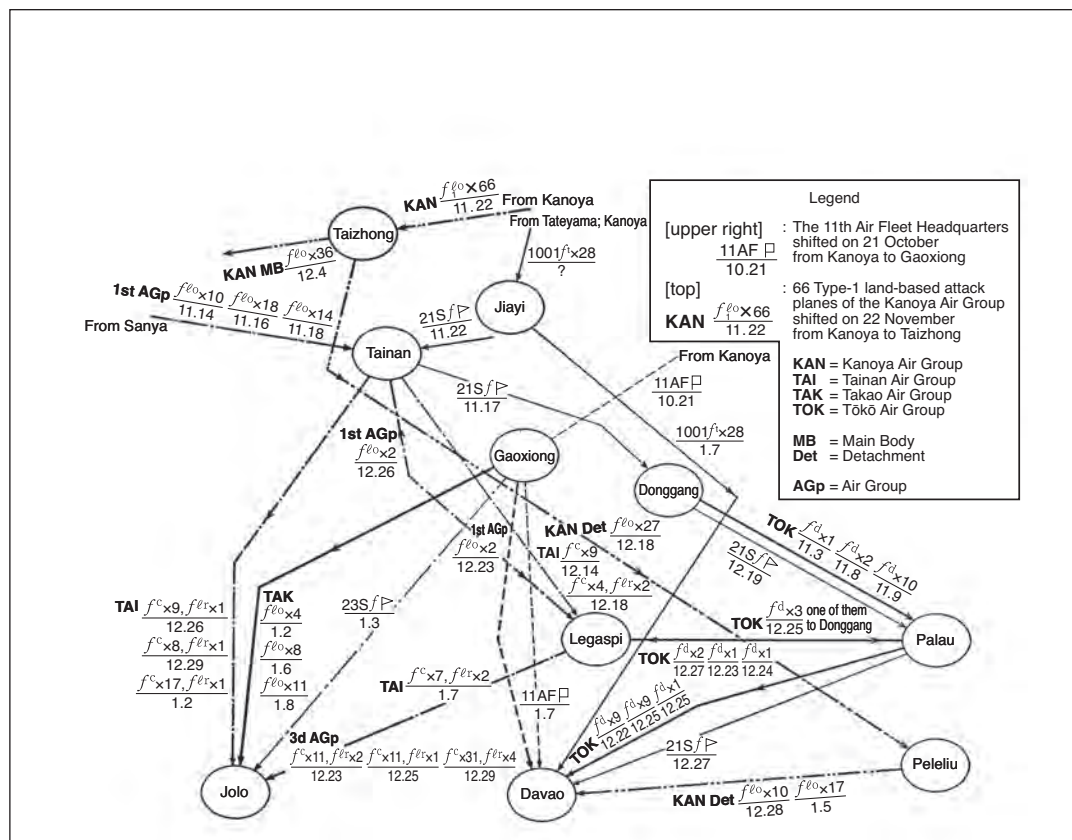


Illustration No. 1 — The Shift of the Bases of the Air Units

mand of the Southern Task Force, and also formed Submarine Unit A with the 6th Submarine Squadron.⁽⁶⁵⁾

On the same day, Southern Task Force Commander Vice Admiral Kondō transmitted the tasks of phase-two operations to each unit by Telegraphic Order No. 35. Although the contents of the telegraphic order are unclear, they are roughly assumed to have been as follows:⁽⁶⁰⁾

Submarine Unit A (6th Submarine Squadron)

1. To search for and attack enemy war vessels and disrupt [enemy] shipping lanes in the Banda Sea, the Flores Sea and the waters north of Australia, in concert with the operations of the Dutch East Indies Unit
2. To observe the strategic locations of the enemy and lay mines

Submarine Unit B (5th Submarine Squadron)

1. To advance into the Indian Ocean and disrupt [enemy] shipping lanes
2. To sever the [enemy] submarine cables between the Dutch East Indies and Australia

Following this, on 28 December, the operational areas and the immediate operational directives of each submarine unit were transmitted by Telegraphic Order No. 39, a summary of which was as follows:⁽⁶³⁾

1. The operational areas of the submarine units shall roughly be divided as follows:

- (1) Submarine Unit A (6th Submarine Squadron)
The waters of the Dutch East Indies, Australia and the Indian Ocean east of 117°E
 - (2) Submarine Unit of the Malaya Unit (4th Submarine Squadron)
The South China Sea, the Java Sea and the Indian Ocean west of 117°E and east of 106°E
 - (3) Submarine Unit B (5th Submarine Squadron)
The Indian Ocean west of 106°E
2. The submarines of the Submarine Unit B shall advance into the Indian Ocean as soon as replenishment and repair at Cam Ranh Bay is completed and engage in the tasks assigned in Southern Task Force Telegraphic Operation Order No. 30 when the submarine base at Penang is ready.
 3. The submarines of the Submarine Unit A shall advance to the assigned waters as soon as replenishment at Davao is completed and engage in the tasks assigned in Telegraphic Operation Order No. 30. However, they shall be careful to carry out mine warfare [only] in the waters of Australia.

The Army Units

After concluding the Iwakuni Agreement, the Sixteenth Army worked out its plan of operations in Tokyo. The initial employment plan of its forces was roughly as follows:⁽⁶⁶⁾

1. The Sakaguchi Detachment ([consisting of] three battalions as the core)
For Tarakan, [and later] Balikpapan and Samarinda
One battalion for Banjarmasin and half a battalion for Bali
2. The 38th Division
Main force for Southern Sumatra; one element for western Java
Detachment B ([consisting of] two battalions as the core) for Ambon and Kupang
3. The 2d Division and a major part of the units under the direct control of the army
For western Java
4. The 48th Division
For eastern Java
5. The South Seas Detachment
For western Java; depending on the situation, for Ambon and Kupang instead of Detachment B

After intercommunication with the Southern Army in late December and the [conclusion of the] Cam Ranh Agreement, the [above] plan was modified in the following way:

1. The South Seas Detachment shall not be employed in the operations in the southwestern theater.
2. The force to be employed in the capture of Ambon and Kupang shall be increased.
3. The force to be employed in the capture of Java shall be slightly reduced.

This modification changed the operational concept of the Sixteenth Army as of the end of December in the following way:

1. The Sakaguchi Detachment shall capture Tarakan, Balikpapan and Samarinda as [previously] planned, and [also] capture Banjarmasin with the strength of one battalion as its core.
2. The 38th Division shall be divided into the following three units:
 - (1) Main force ([consisting of] four battalions as the core) for the occupation of the oil [producing] areas in Palembang and the preparation of the air base(s).

- (2) Detachment B ([consisting of] three battalions as the core) for capturing Ambon and Kupang.
- (3) One element ([consisting of] two battalions as the core) for the landing in western Java along with the main force of the army.
3. The main force of the army that is to land in western Java ([i.e.] the 2d Division, one element of the 38th Division and a major part of the units under the direct control of the army) shall assemble in Gaoxiong, while the 48th Division that is to land in eastern Java shall assemble in Manila after capturing the place.
4. In [the operation to] capture Java, landings in eastern and western [Java] shall generally be carried out in concert. Batavia and Surabaya shall swiftly be seized, after which Bandung, the base of operations of the Dutch East Indies Army, shall be seized.

On 25 December, the Sixteenth Army commander decided to advance the command post of the army to Saigon, leaving Tokyo on the 29th of the month. Then on the 27th, he instructed the 2d Division and the units under the direct control of the army to assemble in Gaoxiong and prepare for the coming operations.

6. The Preparations of All Units Move Ahead

The situation of each unit from the time of the shift to phase-two dispositions of 26 December to the launch of the Dutch East Indies operation developed as follows:^(53, 57, 62, 63)

The Operational Directives of the Southern Task Force Commander and the Situation of the Main Body of the Southern Task Force

26 December: [The Southern Task Force commander] issued the order to shift to phase-two dispositions and assigned the tasks of phase-two operations to each unit (Telegraphic Order No. 35)

27 December: Based on reports from the air units that had been searching for the enemy for days in succession, the Southern Task Force commander made the personal judgment that a large scale escape of U.S.-Filipino units was imminent. He disposed the forces so as to catch and destroy them. (Telegraphic order No. 37; there was actually no evacuation of large units.)

[He also] issued an order to the Malaya Unit to set up a submarine base in Penang and incorporated the 11th Submarine Base Unit into the Malaya Unit as of the 28th. (Telegraphic Order No. 38)

28 December: [The Southern Task Force commander] decided on the operational areas of the 4th, the 5th and the 6th Submarine Squadrons, and gave immediate operational directives to the 5th and the 6th Submarine Squadrons, which were under his direct command. (Telegraphic Order No. 39)

[He also] informed the Malaya Unit and the Dutch East Indies Unit of the outline of their phase-two operations and gave directions to the main body of the Southern Task Force as to the schedule of its advance to Palau. (Telegraphic Order No. 40)

29 December: The Cam Ranh Agreement [conference] was held.

30 December: [The Southern Task Force commander] gave directions to remove the 8th Destroyer Division (minus the 2d Section) from the Malaya Unit and incorporate it into the Dutch East Indies Unit as of 3 January, and to have it escort the seven ships carrying the Ambon invasion unit of the 38th Division due to leave Hong Kong on 8 January for Davao. [He also] issued an order to remove the 2d Section of the 8th Destroyer Division from the

Malaya Unit as of 6 January to return to the main body [of the Southern Task Force]. (Telegraphic order No. 41)

31 December: Upon the request of the 2d Destroyer Squadron commander (in Davao), [the Southern Task Force commander] ordered the repair vessel *Akashi*, which had advanced to Palau from the time of the opening of hostilities to primarily take charge of repairing vessels of the Philippines Unit, to [further] advance to Davao. (Telegraphic order No. 43)

1 January 1942: The Cam Ranh Agreement was officially concluded.

Upon the request of the Malaya Unit commander, [the Southern Task Force commander] removed the 4th Carrier Division (minus the 2d Section) from the main body [of the Southern Task Force] and attached it to the Malaya Unit as of 3 January.

[He] also decided to remove the auxiliary torpedo boat tender *Kamikaze-maru* from the main body as of the same day, 3 January, to incorporate it into the Dutch East Indies Unit and assign it a supply mission between homeland Japan and Davao.

4 January: Along with the formation of the Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet, [the Southern Task Force commander] issued the change(s) in the disposition of forces as of 3 January. (Telegraphic order No. 48)

[He] decided on the areas where the Dutch East Indies Unit and the Philippines Unit were respectively responsible for protecting the shipping lanes. (Telegraphic order No. 49; contents omitted [by the author].)

[He also] issued an order to Submarine Unit A to lay mines around Port Darwin (the operational base of the United States and Australia for sending reinforcements to the Dutch East Indies theater). (Telegraphic order No. 50)

[He also] disclosed the schedule of the movements of the main unit of the main body of the Southern Task Force (to leave Cam Ranh Bay on 8 January to sail to Magong, and leave Magong on the 14th to advance to Palau). Along with the above, [he] also issued an order to add the 2d Section of the 8th Destroyer Division to the escort [forces] of the Ambon invasion unit of the 38th Division, and to remove the 5th Destroyer Squadron from the Malaya Unit between 9 and 12 January, so as to incorporate it into the Dutch East Indies unit. (Telegraphic order No. 51)

8 January: [The Southern Task Force commander] issued an order to form a carrier-based air unit with the 2d Carrier Division (minus the 23d Destroyer Division), the 7th Destroyer Division and the 2d Section of the 27th Destroyer Division. As its main task, he assigned it the destruction of the enemy air power and naval vessels in the eastern part of the Dutch East Indies and the support of the Ambon invasion operation; their operational directives he assigned to the air unit commander. (Telegraphic order No. 55)

The Operational Directives of the Dutch East Indies Unit Commander and the Movements of the Units of the Dutch East Indies Unit

Prior to this, on 19 December, the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit Commander Vice Admiral Takahashi had directed all units to advance to Davao, the assembly point for launching the Dutch East Indies operation. As Davao was captured behind schedule, the Dutch East Indies operation was expected to be launched roughly around 10 January. Accordingly, as the [Army] invasion units were scheduled to leave Davao on 7 to 8 January, the units [of the Dutch East Indies Unit] were scheduled to assemble in Davao by 4 to 5 January. The Dutch East Indies Unit commander was also scheduled to advance to Davao on 2 January on the *Ashigara*.^(53, 62)

27 – 28 December: Although he was in the middle of [working out] an agreement with the Southern Army at that moment, Dutch East Indies Unit Commander Vice Admiral Takahashi issued the outline of the disposition of forces to the units under his command so as to get across the concept of the immediate operations. He also informed them that the Dutch East Indies operation would be launched around 10 January, that he would leave Gaoxiong on 2 January and advance to Davao on the 6th. (Although the advance to Davao had been scheduled for the 2d, it was delayed due to the huge backlog of matters to be discussed with the Sixteenth Army headquarters.)

29 December – 2 January: [The unit] provided escort at sea centering on Davao, the main tasks of which were as follows.

1. Escort for transport ships carrying invasion units and others, advancing from Palau to Davao.
2. Escort for transport ships returning from Davao to Taiwan.
3. Escort for transport ships sailing from Taiwan to Davao.

27 December – 7 January: As the senior commander on site in Davao, 2d Destroyer Squadron Commander R. Adm. Tanaka Raizō was in charge of designating the anchorages for the advancing units as well as guarding Davao Gulf until 30 December. On the 27th, he offered his opinion to the chief of staff of the Third Fleet that the anchorages were limited in area and in many ways difficult to defend against air raids, and that [the location] had to be reconsidered because of the recently frequent air raids.

Note: Davao Gulf was impossible [to guard] by setting antisubmarine nets or laying mines due to its depth. [Moreover,] as the anchorage did not have the capacity for large units and the wide mouth of the bay allowed [enemy] submarines to easily enter the bay, it was not particularly suitable for a base. Malalag Bay had a narrow entrance and was safer against [enemy] submarines, but raised concerns in terms of antiaircraft [defense]. Other than these bays, there were places with a suitable depth for anchorage in the waters west of Samal Island and in Magnaga Bay, but because they were exposed to the open sea, they raised concerns in terms of antisubmarine [defense].

On 30 December, the 5th Cruiser Division arrived in Davao, and Division Commander R. Adm. Takagi Takeo became the senior commander on site. On 31 December, the commander gave instructions on the main points of guarding the bay to the units there, the contents of which were roughly as follows:

1. Two destroyers of the 2d Destroyer Squadron shall patrol the entrance of Davao Gulf at night. When the 4th Destroyer Squadron arrives on 2 January, the former and two destroyers of the latter shall take turns to continuously patrol the entrance of the bay.
2. One each of the reconnaissance seaplanes of the [cruisers of] the 5th Cruiser Division and of the *Jintsū* and the *Naka* shall take turns to continuously carry out antisubmarine patrols at the entrance of the bay during daytime. (The reconnaissance seaplane unit of the 32d Special Base Force shall cooperate in the [patrols].)
3. The 11th Seaplane Tender Division shall keep guard in the air above the anchorage during daytime with its observation seaplanes, as designated by the 11th Seaplane Tender Division commander. (The fighter planes of the Eleventh Air Fleet, which have already advanced to Davao, shall cooperate in this [guarding].)
4. When the strength of the 1st Base Force arrives in Davao on 2 January, it shall patrol the waters south of Samal Island with a minesweeper or a submarine chaser around the clock and provide guard for the anchorages of Davao and Samal Island.

The outline of these protective measures is as shown in *Illustration No. 2*.



5th Cruiser Division
Commander R. Adm.
Takagi Takeo

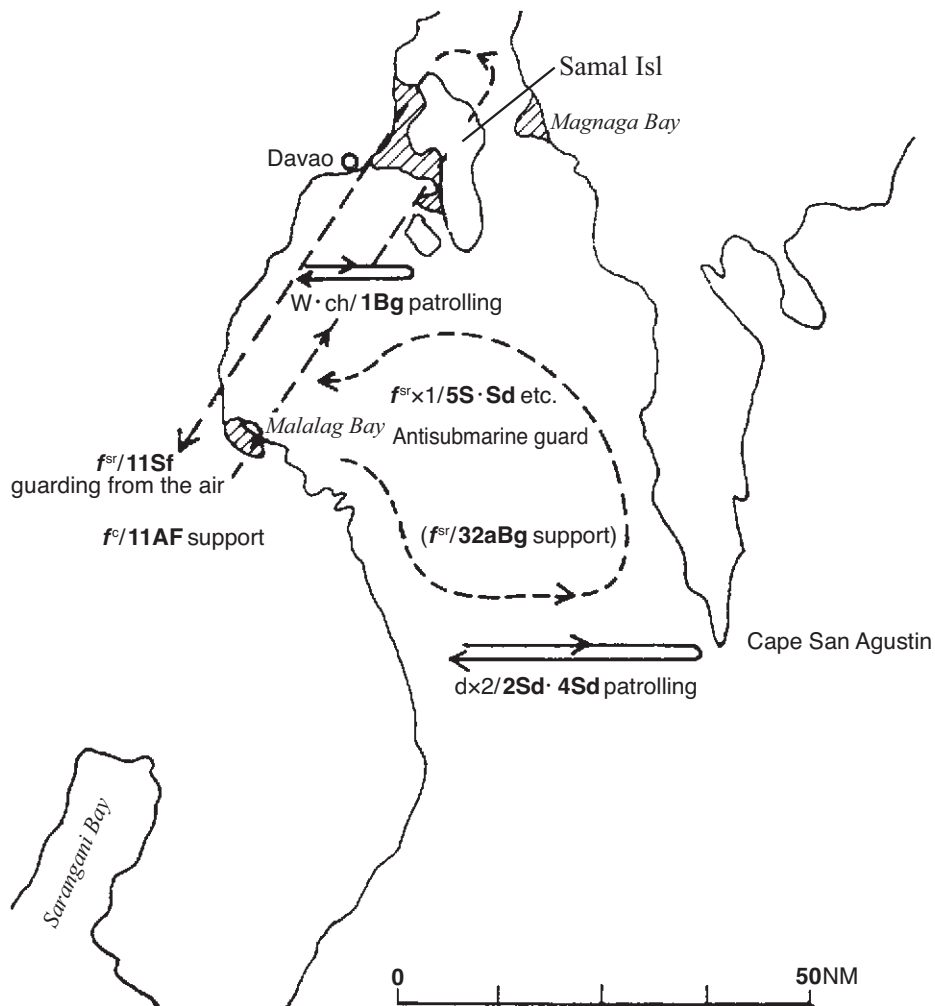


Illustration No. 2 — Outline of the Guarding of the Anchorages in Davao Gulf

30 December – 8 January: The employment plan of the special landing forces of the Dutch East Indies Unit was as follows:^(47, 53, 67, 68)

[For] Tarakan and Balikpapan: the 2d Kure Special Landing Force

[For] the Menado, Kendari and Makassar areas: the Combined Special Landing Force of the Sasebo Naval Station (consisting of the 1st and the 2d Sasebo Special Landing Force)

[For] the Ambon and Kupang areas: the main force of the 1st Kure Special Landing Force (one element of it was to be left in the Philippines) and one element of the Sasebo Combined Special Landing Force

When phase-two operations were put in motion, the Sasebo Combined Special Landing Force and the 2d Kure Special Landing Force had already advanced as far as to Palau and they only needed to advance to Davao, which was no problem. However, the main force of the 1st Kure Special Landing Force was still in Legaspi, engaging in the operation to clear [the enemy] in the vicinity, while one element of its strength was clearing [the enemy] in Jolo. Dutch East Indies Commander Vice Admiral Takahashi gave instructions to the 1st

Kure Special Landing Force regarding its operational schedule in order to arrange its deployment so that it would be able to advance to Davao for the Ambon invasion [operation]. The advance of the 1st Kure Special Landing Force was [further] delayed due to the allocation of ships [for the transfer of the force], and the Dutch East Indies Unit commander exerted pressure to allocate ships. In the end, the force left Legaspi on 14 January and advanced to Menado, while the other special landing forces left Palau on 1 January and advanced to Davao on the 4th.

30 December – 6 January: The employment plan of the construction squads of the Dutch East Indies Unit was as follows.⁽⁵³⁾

1st Construction Squad: Legaspi → Kendari

2d Construction Squad: Davao → Balikpapan

3d Construction Squad: Jolo → Makassar

5th Construction Squad: Tarakan

6th Construction Squad: Menado

Although [squads to be employed for the invasion of] Ambon and Kupang were not yet decided, it seems that the plan was to employ the 5th and/or the 6th Construction Squads. However, because it was decided in the Cam Ranh Agreement that the Ambon – Kupang line should also be captured in tandem, the employment plan was changed so as to make full use of the construction squads on hand, by moving them at an interval of about twenty to thirty days.

1st Construction Squad: Legaspi at that time → Ambon [from] 25 January

2d Construction Squad: Davao at that time → Balikpapan [from] 20 January

3d Construction Squad: Jolo at that time → Makassar [from] 30 January

5th Construction Squad: Palau at that time → Tarakan [from] 10 January → Kupang [from] 30 January

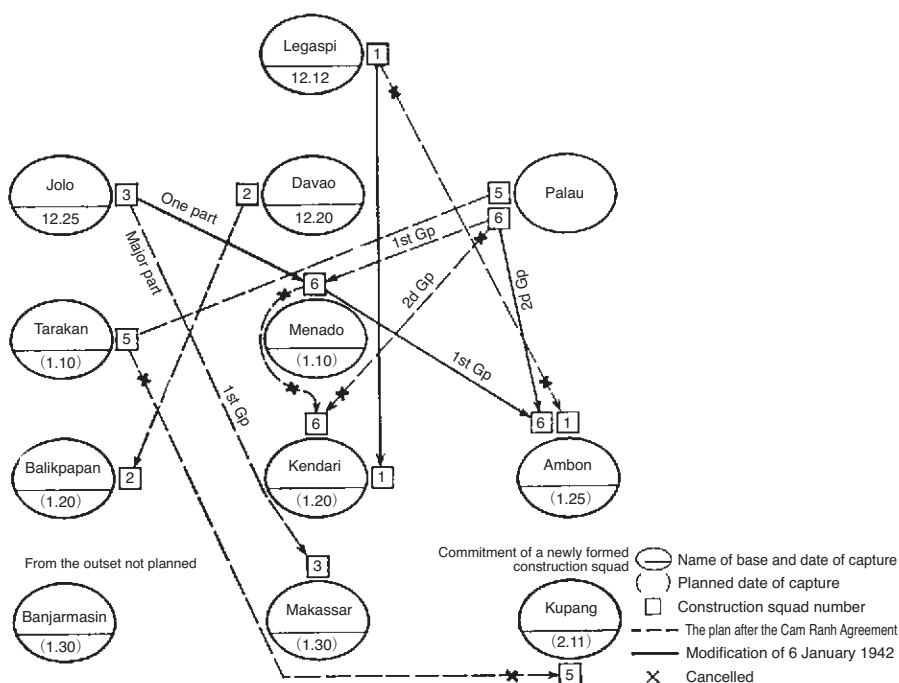


Illustration No. 3 — The Employment Plan of the Construction Squads After the Cam Ranh Agreement

6th Construction Squad: Palau at that time → Menado [from] 10 January for the 1st group and Kendari [from] 20 January for the 2d group

While the preparations for the Dutch East Indies operation progressed, it became clear that the conditions at the Legaspi, Davao and Jolo bases, which had been seized and were being prepared, were worse than expected, and that the preparation would require more days than planned. Moreover, the vessels for redeploying the construction squad(s) were delayed in reaching their actual locations. Therefore, on 6 January, the Dutch East Indies Unit commander once again changed the employment plan of the construction squads as follows, and requested central command to form another construction squad and assign it to him.

1st Construction Squad: [deployment to] Ambon cancelled; to Kendari [instead]

2d Construction Squad: [to be deployed to] Balikpapan as in the former plan

3d Construction Squad: [to be deployed] as in the former plan for the main force; one element [to be deployed] to Menado

5th Construction Squad: [deployment to] Kupang cancelled

6th Construction Squad 1st group: [to be deployed to] Menado as in the former plan

6th Construction Squad 2d group: [deployment] changed from Kendari to Ambon

New Construction Squad: [to be deployed] to Kupang

These changes can be illustrated as in the diagram above. [Illustration No. 3]

On 9 January, a reply with the following gist came from the chief of the Naval Affairs Bureau; the result was that the request to form a new construction squad and assign it to the unit was realized.

1. For the present, the Kupang base shall be quickly made ready for use with the aim to accommodate 27 fighter planes.

(1) The 9th Construction Squad ([consisting of] about 1,000 men including engineers) shall be formed in the homeland [Japan] as of 15 January and attached to the Third Fleet.

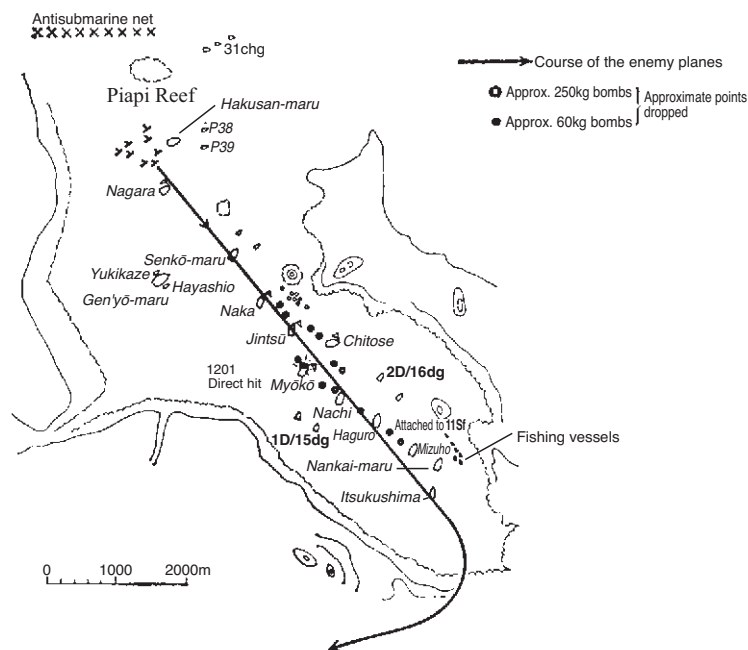


Illustration No. 4 — Outline of the [Enemy] Air Strikes [on the Anchorage] at Malalag Bay (at 1200, 4 January 1942)

- (2) It shall advance to Davao by 20 January carrying a minimum load of matériel with it.
2. Then the base shall be made ready step by step so that it can accommodate large units of land-based attack planes.
 - (1) The personnel shall be successively increased from other squads on site.

The required amount of matériel is in preparation.

25 December – 6 January: Phase-one of the Philippines operation ended with the capture of Jolo on 25 December, and the bulk of the Philippines Unit was shifted to the Dutch East Indies Unit. From the next day, the 26th, onwards, the unit shifted its position so as to advance to Davao. On 6 January, the *Ashigara*, with the Dutch East Indies Unit commander on board, also advanced to Davao, completing the advance of almost all of its forces to Davao.

4 January: At 1155, the warships and other vessels at anchor in Malalag Bay came under attack of eight B-17s of the enemy. A bomb hit the port side of the front deck of the *Myōkō* (the flagship of the 5th Cruiser Division) with the senior commander on site on board. The ship sustained the loss of twenty men and more than forty men injured, as well as considerable damage on her hull. Rear Admiral Takagi, commander of the 5th Cruiser Division, was also knocked down on the front deck by the bomb blast and suffered minor injuries.^(57, 69) (See Illustration No. 4)

At that time, the Davao airfield was swamped by heavy rain day after day, and no patrols by fighter planes around the bay were carried out. Moreover, because concern about [enemy] air raids conducted from the Philippines had almost gone, which had lessened the attention to anti-aircraft [precautions], the enemy aircraft was spotted too late. On the *Myōkō*, the bomb hit the front deck packed with gunners of the main gun, who were trying to get into the turret in order to take up their positions, and caused many casualties. The fact that the ship with the senior commander on site on board was damaged and had to leave the line of battle when the Dutch East Indies operation was about to be launched, and that it had even failed to mount an effective counterattack, was a great shock to the Dutch East Indies Unit.

Commander Takagi of the 5th Cruiser Division changed his flagship to the *Nachi* and sent the *Myōkō* to Magong (later it was changed to Sasebo) for repair, while requesting a tightening of the guard by the fighter planes of the 21st Air Flotilla. Also, it was decided that from the 5th onwards, each unit should move around in the bay by day, and break up [in small groups] and ride at anchor at different anchorages by night.

5 January: A strategy meeting of the Dutch East Indies Unit was held in Davao, and the following was decided upon:^(53, 70)

1. The schedule of the Dutch East Indies invasion operation shall be postponed by one day, and [in line with the postponement] arrangements shall be made with the Sixteenth Army. The reasons for the postponement were as follows:
 - (1) The delay in the preparation of air bases hindered the progress in gaining command of the air.
 - (2) The allotted transport ships for redeploying the special landing forces and the construction squads (the 6th Construction Squad in particular) had been operating behind schedule.
 - (3) The advance of one element of the 2d Base Force to Davao, which would be employed for the capture of Tarakan, had been delayed.
2. The 1st Yokosuka Special Landing Force (a paratrooper unit) shall be employed in the capture of Menado. Particulars need to be arranged concerning its drop at the airfield in concert with the Sasebo Combined Special Landing Force of the 2d Escort Unit.
3. The employment plan of the construction squads shall be finalized, and an opinion shall be offered to central command that the newly formed construction squad be allotted to Kupang (as described previously).

4. In view of the two lines of attack in the east, it was decided that the responsibility of capturing [the following locations] should fall on the following [units]:

Menado: the 2d Destroyer Squadron, one element of the 1st Base Force, the Sasebo Combined Special Landing Force, and the 1st Yokosuka Special Landing Force

Kendari: the 1st Base Force, one element of the 2d Destroyer Squadron, the major part of the Sasebo Combined Special Landing Force

Ambon: the 2d Destroyer Squadron, one element of the 1st Base Force, the major part of the 1st Kure Special Landing Force

The 1st Base Force and the 2d Destroyer Squadron shall respectively take charge of the capture of Makassar and Kupang.

29 December – 6 January: In conformity with the Cam Ranh Agreement [draft] of 29 December, the Third Fleet and the Sixteenth Army had made a preliminary arrangement at Gaoxiong, and the arrangement was officially concluded on 6 January. It was called the 1st Takao [Gaoxiong] Arrangement, the main points of which were as follows.⁽⁵³⁾

1. Army Detachment B [i.e.] the Itō Detachment in four transport ships; note: [in] seven [transport ships] in the Cam Ranh Agreement) shall leave Hong Kong on 12 January under the escort of the 1st Section of the 8th Destroyer Division and reach Davao on 18 January. From there, escorted by a force [consisting of] the 2d Destroyer Squadron as the core, it shall capture Ambon and Kupang respectively on 25 January and 5 February.
2. The Sakaguchi Detachment shall be escorted by a force [consisting of] the 4th Destroyer Squadron as the core and seize Tarakan, Balikpapan and Banjarmasin, which are respectively scheduled for 11, 21 and 31 January.
3. The main force of the Sixteenth Army shall assemble in Gaoxiong between 29 January and 5 February, and land in Batavia and vicinity around 16 February, escorted by a force [consisting of] the 5th Destroyer Squadron as the core. The detailed arrangements concerning the landings shall be made between the 5th Destroyer Squadron commander and the Sixteenth Army commander on 26 January at Gaoxiong.
4. The 48th Division shall be escorted by a force [consisting of] the 4th Destroyer Squadron as the core. It shall leave Manila on 7 February and land in Surabaya and vicinity around 16 February. The detailed arrangements shall be made between the 4th Destroyer Squadron commander and the 48th Division commander in Manila on 4 February.

If the above arrangements as well as the results of the strategy meeting are put together, the outline of the operation plan of the Dutch East Indies Unit commander before the Dutch East Indies operation was [actually] put in motion (on 7 January 1942) was as shown in *Illustration No. 5*.

6 – 7 January: The Dutch East Indies Unit commander assigned the following tasks to the units concerned.⁽⁵³⁾

1. He ordered the 2d Gunboat Division to guard Jolo and the *Itsukushima* to lay a mine barrier at the eastern entrance of the Bangka anchorage (north of Menado) after capturing Menado.
2. He ordered the 8th Destroyer Division (with its 2d Section added) to escort the Army Itō Detachment's transfer from Hong Kong to Davao.
3. He arranged the deployment for a rescue operation at the time of the attack on Ambon from the 6th to the 7th by large flying boat units and land-based attack plane units.

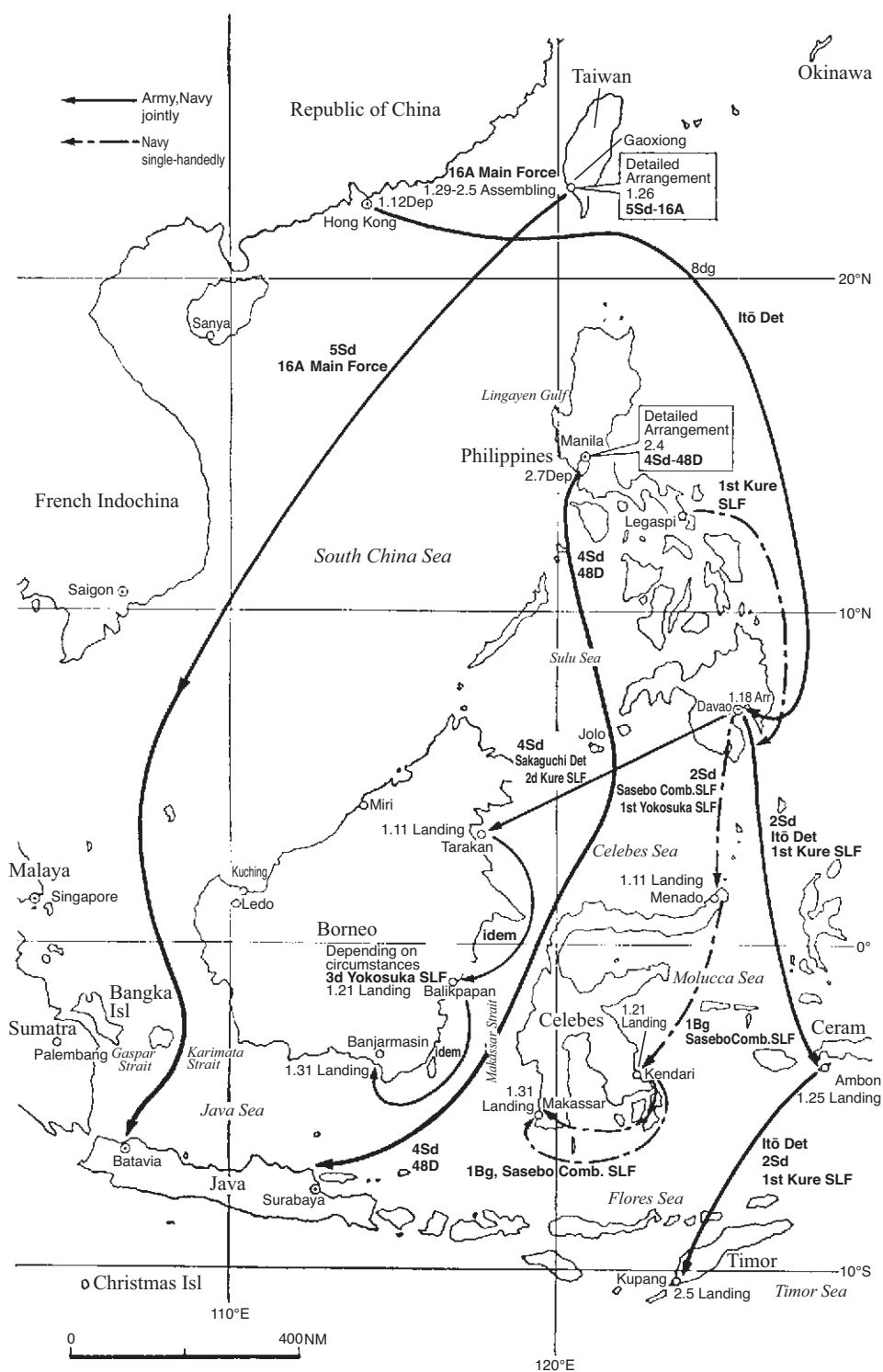


Illustration No. 5 — Plan of the Dutch East Indies Operation Right Before the Launch of the Operation
 ([As of] 7 January, 1942)

The Operational Directives of the [Southern Task Force] Air Unit Commander and the Actions of Each Component of the Air Unit

By 20 December it was concluded that the enemy air power in the Philippines area was mostly destroyed and that the [enemy] surface forces in the Malaya and the Philippines areas had already pulled back to the Java area as well. The Army air campaign to destroy the enemy air power in the Malay Peninsula also progressed for the most part smoothly. Vice Admiral Tsukahara, commander of the Air Unit, launched the Dutch East Indies operation with the forces that had been advanced to the southern Philippines and was gradually intensifying the operation by accelerating the construction of bases as well as the shift of his air forces to the southern regions. Yet, he conducted the operation in such a way that the units in Taiwan and those deployed in Legaspi, Davao and Jolo should according to the circumstances continue the Philippines operation and wipe out the remnants of the [enemy] forces there. The total military gains and losses of the Eleventh Air Fleet up until 31 December were reported as follows:⁽⁵⁴⁾

The total military gains up until 31 December

1. [Enemy aircraft] that were brought down or caught fire with certainty (those brought down are shown in parentheses)
(68) Fighter planes, 28 (0) middle-sized planes, 39 (5) large-sized planes, 24 (6) flying boats, 17 (0) training aircraft, totaling 251 (79) aircraft
2. [Enemy aircraft] that were wrecked on the ground by strafing or bombing or which may have been brought down but not with certainty
72 Small planes, 4 middle-sized planes, 15 large-sized planes, 3 flying boats, 15 training planes, totaling 109 aircraft
3. [Enemy] war vessels sunk or badly damaged
4 Destroyers, 4 submarines, 24 merchantmen of 1,000 tons or more, 2 vessels of less than 1,000 tons
4. [Enemy war vessels] considerably damaged by direct or near hits of bombs
1 Light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 submarine, and 21 merchantmen

Losses up until 31 December (Except for losses incurred in other situations than aerial combats)

1. Flight crew: 4 land-based attack plane teams, 1 transport plane team, 14 Type-0 fighter plane crew, and 2 flying boat teams
2. Equipment: 10 land-based attack planes (4 Type-1s, 6 Type-96s), 24 Type-0 fighter planes, 1 transport plane and 2 flying boats

The condition of the seized air bases

1. Legaspi: A runway of 50 meters wide and 1,000 meters long is to be ready by 5 January. It can accommodate 18 fighter planes, 2 land-based reconnaissance planes, and about 3 land-based attack planes.
2. Jolo: Although a runway of 140 meters wide and 1,100 meters long is to be ready by 5 January, it is not available until 8 January because it has not only a large inclination but also undulates. (The rest is unclear because the next part in the original document is missing.)
3. Davao land base: A runway of 1,200 meters long is to be ready [at] 1030 on 6 January. However, due to the soft ground and frequent squalls, the rolling of the apron has not made much progress, and the accommodation available as of 8 January is [limited to] 54 fighter planes,

8 land-based reconnaissance planes and 40 land-based attack planes. The Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters is due to advance [there] on 7 January.

The scheduled deployment of forces as of 8 January and the current deployment as of 31 December (Note: the latter is shown in parentheses)

1. Tainan: the 1st Air Group (about one half of the Tainan Air Group and the 1st Air Group)
2. Gaoxiong: About one half of the Takao Air Group (the Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters, the 23d Air Flotilla headquarters, and the Takao Air Group)
3. Davao: the Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters, the 21st Air Flotilla headquarters, about one half of the Kanoya Air Group, the Tōkō Air Group, the transport plane unit of the 1st Air Group (the 21st Air Flotilla headquarters, the 3d Air Group, the Tōkō Air Group, and one element of the Kanoya Air Group)
4. Jolo: About one half of the 23d Air Flotilla, the Tainan Air Group (one element of the Tainan Air Group)
5. Legaspi: (One element of the Tainan Air Group)

On 2 January, the Air Unit commander ordered [the shift to] the phase-two disposition of forces, generally set the operational border of the 1st and the 2d Air Raid Units at the line of 122° E, and entrusted each air raid unit commander with [the arrangement of] the particulars for implementing the operation. He also put the 1st and the 3d Yokosuka Special Landing Forces (both paratrooper units) respectively under the command of the 1st Air Raid Unit and of the 2d Air Raid Unit from 2 January onwards, to have them prepare for the operations respectively against Menado and Balikpapan. Along with that, he temporarily put the transport plane unit of the 1001 Unit under the command of the 1st Air Raid Unit, so as to have it participate in the 1st Yokosuka Special Landing Force's operation to capture Menado.

Following this [order], the 1st Air Raid Unit, which had [already] launched the operation in the Dutch East Indies area with as preliminary actions the search for the enemy in the Celebes Sea on the 23d of December and the reconnaissance attack on Menado on the 24th, advanced its headquarters to Davao on 27 December. Following the above [order], it mainly carried out attacks on the northern part of the island of Celebes. Moreover, on 7 January, prior to [the operation to] capture Menado, flying boats of the Tōkō Air Group and land-based attack planes of the Kanoya Air Group carried out a night raid on Ambon. Meanwhile, the 1st Yokosuka Special Landing Force left the port of Gaoxiong on the 26th of December, entered the port of Davao on the 31st, and set about preparing for the paradrop operation on Menado scheduled for the 11th and the 12th of January.

In the meantime on 30 December, the 2d Air Raid Unit launched the Dutch East Indies operation with, as the first attack, the attack on Tarakan by the Tainan Air Group from the Jolo base.⁽⁷¹⁾ The 23d Air Flotilla headquarters also advanced to Jolo on 3 January.

Note: The air raid on Tarakan was also carried out from the Miri base by Type-0 fighter planes and land-based attack planes of the Mihoro Air Group of the Malaya Unit on 26 and 28 December, as well as by Type-0 fighter planes and land-based reconnaissance planes of the 3d Air Group of the 1st Raid Unit also on the 28th ([the latter] will be described later).

From that time on, the 2d Air Raid Unit carried out patrols over the northern half of the Makassar Strait and reconnaissance attacks over the Tarakan and Balikpapan areas, while continuing the Philippines operation. Meanwhile, the 3d Yokosuka Special Landing Force left Gaoxiong on the 5th of January and arrived in Davao on the 12th (due to the operation

of the available ship, it called at Jolo on the way) and set about preparing for the paradrop operation in Balikpapan.⁽⁷¹⁾

The major engagements of the Air Unit during the preparation for the Dutch East Indies operation are as follows:⁽⁷¹⁾

28 December: The 3d Air Group ([of] the 1st Air Raid Unit) conducted an attack on Tarakan with seven Type-0 fighter planes and one land-based reconnaissance plane from Davao and fought against nine enemy fighter planes. It pursued the enemy who lacked fighting spirit and escaped into the clouds; all aircraft [of the group] safely returned, reporting that [the group] brought down four [enemy] Buffalo's for sure, more or less certainly brought down two old-model Boeing's, and was not sure about the results of the other two to three planes. Only one aircraft [of the group] was hit. At that time, due to the [thick] clouds, it was impossible to reconnoiter Tarakan and the air raid [on the aircraft] on the ground was called off. As this attack was conducted outside the operational area of the 1st Air Raid Unit (the area was the responsibility of the 2d Air Raid Unit) and moreover, it was a long-distance attack almost reaching the limit of the cruising range of the Type-0 fighter planes, the unit was severely admonished by the Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters.⁽¹²⁾

31 December: Six flying boats of the Tōkō Air Group ([consisting of] three equipped with bombs and three with torpedoes) and five land-based attack planes of the Kanoya Air Group carried out a bomb and torpedo attack from 1655 to 1730 against a *Canopus*-class cruiser (Note: it was the Dutch seaplane tender *Heron*; [editor's note: in fact it was the *USS Heron*]), which was sailing southward on the waters west of the island of Kasiruta (southwest of Halma-hera). However, due to the high-speed evasive movements of the enemy ship, only two 60-kilogram conventional bombs of the land-based attack plane unit (led by Lt. Cdr. Irisa Toshiié) hit the ship, which caused fires but failed to sink the ship. The defensive fire of the enemy ship in this attack was fierce and precise. It [hit] the flying boat of the torpedo unit commander (Lt. Ōta Jusō) and made him to ditch it. Four other aircraft were also hit, and the second and the third flying boats of the torpedo unit were beached when they returned.

5-6 January: After the [enemy] air strikes over Malalag Bay, the search for and the attacks on the enemy in the Philippines from the air were intensified and so was the direct air defense above Davao and Jolo, but almost no enemy aircraft were spotted. The enemy aircraft that had conducted the air strike over Malalag Bay were eight B-17s of the U.S. 5th Bomber Command. Having departed from Malang on Java, they had carried out the attack using Samarinda on Borneo as a staging base and already returned to Malang on the 5th.

6-7 January: Six flying boats of the Tōkō Air Group ([consisting of] two torpedo bombers, one illumination aircraft, and three bombers, led by Cdr. Aizawa Tatsuo) and twenty-one land-based attack planes of the Kanoya Air Group Detachment (led by Lt. Cdr. Irisa Toshiié) were going to conduct a night attack on Ambon (a torpedo attack [with flying boats that would release their torpedoes] after landing [and while running on the water]). However, due to engine trouble right after taking off from the water, the flying boat with Commander Aizawa on board hit the foremast of the transport ship *Kirishima-maru* at anchor in Davao Gulf; it crashed killing all the crew (eight personnel including Commander Aizawa). Due to this accident, the attack by the torpedo unit ([consisting of] two torpedo-equipped flying boats and one with illumination flares) was called off. Meanwhile, seven of the land-based attack planes also returned [to base] due to trouble of the plane that had the commander on board. Eventually, three flying boats and fourteen land-based attack planes attacked the Ambon airfield from 0348 till 0447, and all aircraft returned safely. It was concluded that this attack had sealed the enemy's use [of the Ambon airfield] during the operation against Menado.

The Situation of the Carrier-Based Air Units

The main force of the First Air Fleet had completed the Hawaii operation and returned to the Inland Sea of Japan on 23 December. As a result of a meeting on the 24th, it was decided that the 1st and the 5th Carrier Divisions should cooperate in the Rabaul invasion operation, after which they should get ready for [an attack from] the east, and that the 2d Carrier Division should be incorporated in the Southern Task Force.⁽⁴⁶⁾ The 2d Carrier Division ([consisting of] the *Sōryū* and the *Hiryū* as the core) participated in the operation to capture Wake Island between 21 and 23 December on their way back from the attack on Hawaii and entered the port of Kure on 29 December. After entering the port of Kure, the division replenished its personnel along with conducting repair and maintenance of the ships and armaments, while striving to complete the preparations for the coming operations.⁽⁷²⁾

The Situation of the Army Units

The situation of the Army units during the preparatory period of the Dutch East Indies operation was as follows:

Sixteenth Army headquarters: The army headquarters was [still] situated in the premises of the War College in Tokyo, but was scheduled to advance to the field in January 1942. However, as the Dutch East Indies operation was substantially moved up and, in line with this, considerable changes had to be made in the deployment plan of units, Army Commander Lt. Gen. Imamura Hitoshi decided to quickly advance the headquarters to the field on 25 December, moving up the original schedule by half a month. On 27 December, he also issued an order to the 2d Division and the units under the direct control of the army to assemble in Gaoxiong.

The army commander left Tokyo on 30 December, advanced to Saigon on the 3d of January, and received the order to capture Bangka, Palembang, Ambon and Kupang from Commander in Chief of the Southern Army General Terauchi on the 4th. From that time on, the commander directed the operations at the command post in Saigon.

2d Division: [Having received] the army order on 27 December to assemble in Gaoxiong, the 2d Division, which had conducted training at maneuvering grounds in central Japan, left the maneuvering grounds one after another, and was assembling at Ujina to embark from there. The advance unit was expected to leave Ujina around 15 January.

48th Division: Having landed along Lingayen Gulf on 22 December, the division had charged southward with unstoppable force, captured Manila on 2 January, and moved its main force toward the Bataan Peninsula in pursuit of the defeated enemy. On 5 January, the division had received an unofficial order to redeploy its force to the Dutch East Indies theater. Thus, relieved on the front line by the 65th Brigade on 8 January, it was gradually assembling in the Manila area. The division was incorporated in the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army on 14 January.

38th Division: The 38th Division had captured Hong Kong on 25 December. Shortly after that, on 30 December, it received an order from the Twenty-third Army to form a detachment suitable for operations against different islands with [a unit consisting of] one infantry regiment and one artillery battalion led by the infantry group commander as the core, and have the detachment prepared so that it would be able to embark on the 6th of January at Hong Kong to leave port on the 9th. This was the Itō Detachment, led by Maj. Gen. Itō Takeo, which was the Detachment B (scheduled for the capture of Ambon) that had been decided on in the Cam Ranh Agreement. The Itō Detachment, whose preparation for the departure had

slightly fallen behind schedule, left Hong Kong for Davao on 12 January in five transport ships (note: seven ships in the Cam Ranh Agreement and four in the 1st Takao Agreement).

In the meantime, the 38th Division was incorporated in the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army on 4 January, received an unofficial order to capture Bangka and Palembang, and started its operational preparations.

Sakaguchi Detachment: The Sakaguchi Detachment had roughly completed the mopping-up [operation] around Davao by the end of December, handed over the task of maintaining security of the area to the Miura Detachment ([of] the 16th Division of the Fourteenth Army) and assembled its units in the Talomo and Daliao sectors to make operational preparations for the coming Tarakan operation. On 4 January, its rear units advanced from Palau. The detachment embarked its entire force on nine ships that then assembled in the anchorages of Davao and Daliao, thereby completing its operational preparations on 6 January.

Fifth Air Force: The Fifth Air Force had deployed its main force in various areas of the northern Philippines and primarily supported the ground operations of the main force of the Fourteenth Army, while assigning one element to the air campaign to destroy the enemy air power as well as to the cover of the anchorages. On 5 January, the force was given an unofficial notification of redeployment to the Burma area; it set about the preparation from that day onwards and gradually began its redeployment to central Thailand by air and sea transport from the 14th onwards. Thereafter, the [Army] air operations in the Philippines were carried out by a small force of air units attached to the army.

Third Air Force: The Third Air Force had been stationed in French Indochina, Thailand and the Malay Peninsula at the time of opening of hostilities and supported the Army ground operations in the Malaya area. The force advanced to the Malay Peninsula one after another by around the end of December and was in charge of the support for the ground operations as well as of the air campaign to destroy the enemy air power in the Malaya and Burma areas.