

Chapter V Decision to Advance [the Schedule of] the Java Operation and the Sixteenth Army

1. Decision to Advance [the Date of the Operation]

(See Illustration No. 16)

On 19 December, the Southern Army Operations Section (more precisely, Senior Staff Col. Ishii Masayoshi and Chief of Operations Lt. Col. Arao Okikatsu, both in Section 1 of the Southern Army Staff) in Saigon set their minds on bringing forward the Java operation by about one month (note: about one month earlier than planned by IGHQ).⁽²⁴⁾ It was two days before the Sixteenth Army headquarters [still located] at the War College completed its operation plan, six days before it made its line-of-communication plan, and one day before the Sakaguchi Detachment landed in Davao.

The reason that they set their minds on moving up the Java operation was [the fact that] since the opening of hostilities, the war situation had developed quite favorably, which made them conclude that “most of the goals of Operation A-GŌ [i.e. the southern operation] should be attained by making use of the current war momentum and by conducting the operation on the concept of strategic pursuit.”⁽²⁴⁾ Section 1 of the Southern Army Staff considered that “it was of vital importance for Japan to establish its sphere of self-preservation and self-defense before the enemy was fully ready to destroy its commerce; that allowing the U.S. and British naval forces to unite [in a counterattack] would result in restricting the operations of our Navy and prevent it from gaining independent command of the seas in the Indian Ocean as well as in the West Pacific, which [the staff] feared would cause the Dutch East Indies operation to be conducted under anxiety and strain.”⁽²⁴⁾ Although the staff judged that an additional tonnage of some half a million tons would be necessary to attain this end,⁽²⁴⁾ they determinedly planned to accelerate the operation.

The war situation up to the day before [they started planning] (the 18th) was in outline as follows:

Huge achievements had been made in the first engagements, which dispelled the worries about the eastern waters for the present. The Twenty-fifth Army, which had succeeded in carrying out a surprise landing in Malaya, had shifted to chasing the enemy after breaking through the Jitra line by as early as 13 December, which the British Indian Army had boasted could check the advance of the Japanese Army for at least three months. By 17 December, the command post in Alor Setar had revised the operation plan as follows:

The Imperial Guard Division and the 5th Division shall charge toward Singapore along the west coast, while the Takumi Detachment ([which] came ashore in Kota Bharu and is going southward along the eastern coast) shall advance toward Kuala Lumpur or Gemas from the direction

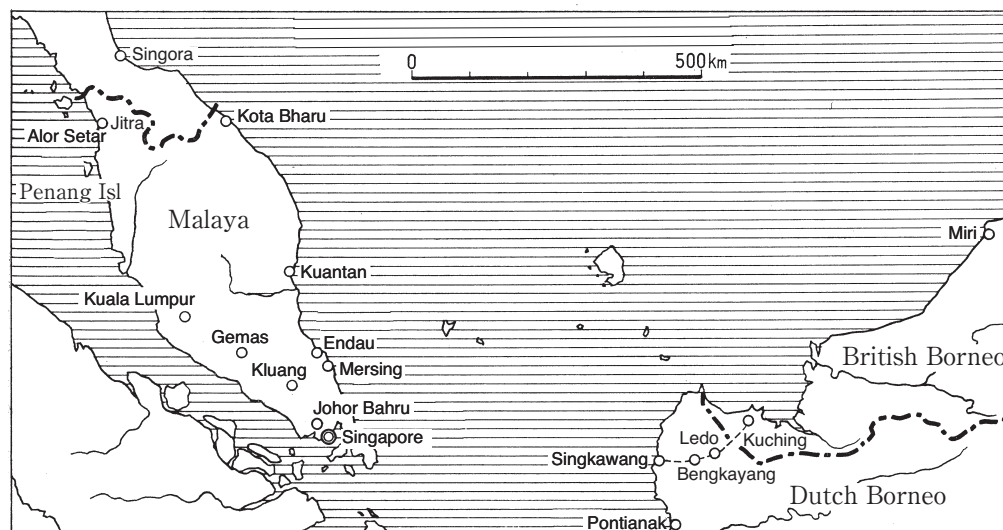


Illustration No. 16—Map of Relevant Places in Malaya and Western Borneo

of Kuantan, and facilitate the operations of the main force of the army. [On the other hand,] the 18th Division, which will be transported to Singora in the third transport, will after arrival temporarily remain there on standby and, taking an opportunity, land in or near Mersing and charge toward Kluang and Johor Bahru.

The 56th Division, which had been scheduled for transport and landing in or near Mersing as the last corps of the Twenty-fifth Army, was now considered unnecessary for the capture of the Malay Peninsula. The 38th Division assigned to the capture of Hong Kong broke through the stronghold around Tai Mo Shan [Damaoshan] with unexpected swiftness, completely seized the whole of the Kowloon [Jiulong] Peninsula by 14 December, and was about to go ahead with the landing on Hong Kong [Island]. As for the Philippines, after succeeding in destroying the enemy air power right at the outset of the war, operations of the advance units progressed as scheduled. The landing of the main force of the Fourteenth Army around Lingayen Gulf and Lamon Bay scheduled for 22 and 24 December respectively and the subsequent operations could be looked forward to with confidence, while the prospect that the redeployment of the 48th Division to the Java operation could be carried out ahead of schedule looked very good. The Kawaguchi Detachment (consisting of three battalions of the 18th Division as its core) had made a successful landing near Miri on 16 December and the Sakaguchi Detachment had departed from Palau on the 17th for the capture of Davao. The success of the subsequent operations of these detachments was [also] judged unquestionable. The 2d Division stood by on the mainland [of Japan] fully prepared, while the 1st [Paratroop] Raiding Group was preparing for departure in Kyūshū, following the instruction issued by the chief of the Army General Staff of IGHQ on 8 December.⁽¹⁾ The only concern was the delay in the schedule of capturing Rabaul by the South Seas Detachment and the [resultant] delay in it making a U-turn to join the Dutch East Indies operation, which had been caused by the Fourth Fleet's failure to capture Wake Island (on 10 December). The South Seas Detachment, which [was expected to] capture Guam and then Rabaul, and then join the Dutch East Indies operation, had to wait in Guam to no purpose, even though it had captured the island as early as 10 December, because the Fourth Fleet was in the middle of preparations to retry

capturing Wake Island. However, the operations of the Twenty-fifth Army went so smoothly that the 56th Division, which were to be transferred along with the 18th Division, was now considered unnecessary for the operations in the Malay Peninsula, so the delay in the operations of the South Seas Detachment was not really worth bothering about.

What is more, that night (the night of the 18th), the 38th Division succeeded in landing on Hong Kong Island. As described previously, the division [was among those] planned to be redeployed to the Dutch East Indies operation. The Southern Army judged it was time to concretize its phase-two operations (the operations for the capture of Java).

On the 19th, the Operations Section of the Southern Army, as previously described, set its mind on advancing [the schedule of] the Java operation and on the same day informed the staff of the Second Fleet that it wanted to conclude further arrangements between the Army and the Navy (the arrangements for phase-two operations, i.e. the operations for the capture of Java, which followed those concluded on 10 November) and that it was considering as subjects of the arrangements the schedule for the capture of the Dutch East Indies, the outlines of the capture of Palembang (about [the use of] the paratroop unit and the cover provided by the ships), matters concerning anti-submarine [measures] and shipping, etc.⁽²⁴⁾

The Operations Section of the Southern Army set its mind on having the acceleration of the Java operation agreed and tried to promptly conclude agreements for phase-two operations, which had been expected around day $x + 40$ (i.e. 17 January), ahead of schedule. As to the reasons [why it hastened the conclusion of agreements], it has to be pointed out that apart from the already-described general situation, and with the exception of eastern Borneo [and further east] (which the previous arrangements already covered up to the outline for the capture of Bali), the outlines for the capture of key areas outside Java, e.g. west of Borneo and southern Sumatra, had yet to be covered. However, now the stage had been reached where specific arrangements for the operations to capture southern Sumatra could be concluded. The first arrangement [necessary] concerned the operations on the west coast of Borneo, where the Kawaguchi Detachment, which had landed in Miri on the 16th, was going to land in Kuching on the 21st.⁽¹¹⁸⁾ Naval planes were supposed to advance into Kuching and launch air operations against Sumatra and western Java as soon as the Kuching airfield became ready for use. The second arrangement [necessary] was that preparations for a Kuantan landing operation were taking shape. By seizing Kuantan, air support from its airfield for the southern Sumatra operation would become possible. The value of the Kuantan airfield had been mentioned for the first time in Saigon on 10 December by Kumon Aribumi, a staff officer of IGHQ.⁽²⁴⁾ The next day, the 11th, when IGHQ Staff Officer Kondō Dempachi returned to Tokyo from Saigon, the Southern Army told him: "We are currently studying a speedup of the operations, and [more precisely] we are considering advancing [the schedule of] the capture of Singapore by seizing Kuantan and [also] landing in Mersing and Bangka on approximately day $x + 60$. We would like [IGHQ] to consider an increase in tonnage of 150,000 tons in total: 50,000 tons each for the new operations, for replenishment, and for matériel."⁽²⁴⁾ Landing in Kuantan at this time [of the operations] had not been included in the previous plans. The next day, the 12th, the Southern Army settled on an outline for the operations on the east coast of Malaya.⁽²³⁾ In the previous plans, the 5th and the Imperial Guard Division would advance southward along the west coast of Malaya, while the 18th Division was scheduled to land in Singora around day $x + 25$ (12 January) and would head for Penang, while the 56th Division in the subsequent transport would come ashore in Kuantan and

Mersing around day $x + 60$ (6 February). In the [new] plan, this was changed: now the 18th Division, expected to arrive first, would be used for the east coast of Malaya. [To be exact,] two battalions of the 18th Division as the core would be put ashore in Kuantan on day $x + 17$ (25 December), while the main force of the 18th Division (four battalions as its core) would be put ashore on day $x + 40$ (17 January) in Endau and Mersing.^(23, 24) The Twenty-fifth Army had on the whole no objection to this plan and, on the 15th, ordered the Takumi Detachment (going southward from Kota Bharu along the east coast) to go [further] southward and act in concert with the units landing in Kuantan. On the 17th, it unofficially disclosed the army's intention to the staff officers of the 18th Division, while revising its operation plan in accordance with [the outline] mentioned above.⁽⁵³⁾ [Meanwhile,] on this day (the 17th), the Southern Army explained the Kuantan operation to the staff of the Third Air Force, the [Navy] Malaya Unit, and the 22d Air Flotilla.^(23, 24) At this time, [the operations to] capture Davao (on the 20th) and Jolo (on the 25th) had not yet been executed. Since the start of the study on the southern operation in 1940, it had been consistently taken for granted that the operations via the east of Borneo would proceed more quickly than those conducted via Malaya. However, the sinking of two large British battleships and the smooth progress in the Malaya and British Borneo operations had brought about these alterations [in the plans].

On this day (the 19th [when the Southern Army contacted the Navy Southern Task Force]), out of the three land-based air flotillas of the Southern Task Force, the 21st Air Flotilla headquarters had moved to Palau from Taiwan.^(102, 104) This flotilla was supposed to move to Davao without delay when the Sakaguchi Detachment had captured Davao (on 20th). The 23d Air Flotilla was still in southern Taiwan together with the Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters,^(102, 104) while the 22d Air Flotilla (assigned to the [Navy] Malaya Unit) was in southern French Indochina.^(102, 104) As mentioned previously, right before the opening of hostilities, the [Navy] Southern Task Force attached great importance to the movements of the British fleet and considered the possibility of having to advance the 23d Air Flotilla to Kuching (scheduled to be captured on the 21st) after the Philippines operations. However, after the sinking of the two large British battleships, it decided to have the air flotilla advance to Jolo (scheduled to be captured on the 25th) and then go southward along the east coast of Borneo.

The next day, the 20th, Section 1 of the Staff of the Southern Army made a proposal to advance [the schedule of] the operations for capturing Java at the staff meeting of the headquarters [of the Southern Army].⁽²⁴⁾ A staff officer of the Shipping Transport Command stationed at the Saigon command post made a comment that "provided that the ships currently allocated [to the army] are not returned, it seems possible," but Section 1 judged that "it will probably be necessary to assign an additional 150,000 to 300,000 tons of tonnage."⁽²⁴⁾ On this day, the Southern Army sent a telegram to the Army Department of IGHQ to inform it that it was considering a plan to complete the Java operation by and large by day $x + 90$ and requested central command's considerations.^(23, 24) [Also] on this day, Vice Admiral Kondō, commander of the Southern Task Force, left Cam Ranh Bay and headed northeastward with his main unit for the support of the landing of the 48th Division, etc. around Lingayen Gulf (scheduled for the 22d).⁽¹¹⁸⁾

On the next day, the 21st, Col. Hattori Takushirō, chief of Section 2 (Operations Section) of the Army Department of IGHQ, arrived in Saigon with a draft outline for operations against Burma and to transmit the arrangements for subsequent operations.⁽²⁴⁾ While the tasks of the Fifteenth Army (with the 33d and 55th Divisions as its core) remained the same

as mentioned previously, IGHQ would later on divert the 56th Division (from the order of battle of the Twenty-fifth Army) to the Fifteenth Army to have it join the Burma operation. The Southern Army told Colonel Hattori on his arrival that the operations were making favorable progress; that it was necessary to accomplish the Java operation quickly; that for this purpose it wanted an additional tonnage of about 150,000 tons; and that the South Seas Detachment did not have to be incorporated in the Sixteenth Army, and so on.⁽²⁴⁾ Colonel Hattori agreed, and the next day, the 22d, he sent the following telegram to the chief of Department 1 (the chief of the Operations Bureau) of the Army Department of IGHQ:⁽²³⁾

(Preliminaries omitted by the author)

1. The arrangements for the Malaya area operations are currently concluded between the [Southern] Army and the Southern Expeditionary Fleet in Cam Ranh Bay as specified in the Southern Army Staff Section 1 Telegram No. 166 and will be completed today. On completion of the arrangements, these will be passed down as an order to the Twenty-fifth Army. As for the use of the 56th Division, it seems that the [Southern] Army is presently considering to have it land in or around Singora at the predetermined time, and later use it for the northern Sumatra operations at the right moment.
2. The [Southern] Army is currently studying together with the shipping staff [the possibility] of accelerating as much as possible the completion of all the operations including the Dutch East Indies operation (which is hoped to be completed by around day x + 90). Various [details] have to be considered concerning these arrangements, however it is [at least] necessary to additionally requisition about 150,000 tons of tonnage. I will bring back the definite plan of these [arrangements], and I would like IGHQ to go ahead with the research.
3. The [Southern] Army is studying the Burma operations based on the IGHQ plan. However, these operations shall need to be studied in connection with Item 2 above as they involve ships transporting the reinforcements for the Fifteenth Army.
4. Please inform me urgently whether it is possible to embark about four battalions of the 38th Division as the core from about day x + 25 to day x + 30, as these are necessary around day x + 50 for the quick capture of Bangka Island and southern Sumatra. Furthermore, also from the viewpoint of the above, it would be better that the unit to be diverted from Hong Kong to the Sixteenth Army should be transferred to the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army as soon as possible.
5. The [Southern] Army considers it acceptable that the South Seas Detachment will not be transferred to the Southern Army if [the detachment] is needed [otherwise] in terms of general operations.

As of that day (the 22d), the Navy Southern Task Force had not yet thought about advancing the Java operation. As previously described, in the eastern area, Davao was captured six days behind schedule. The Southern Task Force was also critical of the Southern Army's intention of conducting a Kuantan landing operation, which had not been in the plan. On this day, the Southern Task Force (the Second Fleet) sent the following telegram to the Malaya Unit (the Southern Expeditionary Fleet):⁽²³⁾

Dated 22 [December], from Chief of Staff, Second Fleet

To Chief of Staff, Southern Expeditionary Fleet

We have no objection to the plan to accelerate the operations for capturing Malaya so as to promptly gain control of the fate of Singapore. However, we would need more careful consid-

eration if this purpose requires more reinforcement of the naval strength than [initially] planned. Above all, we think that changing the schedule of just one area to rush forward to capture Sumatra should better be avoided, unless the operations in Malaya progress very smoothly. In our opinion, the priority is to destroy the enemy's sea power as much as possible before pulling our decisive battle strength from the southern area. For this reason, in regard to capturing the South, we want to accelerate the operations in Malaya and the eastern part of the Dutch East Indies as simultaneously as possible, while taking into account the progress in both areas, and coupled with advancing submarine units into the Indian Ocean, destroy the enemy and its key areas by encirclement.

On the next day, the 23d, the Southern Army concluded arrangements with the [Navy] Malaya Unit (Southern Expeditionary Fleet) in Cam Ranh Bay on the previously mentioned Kuantan and Mersing operations, etc. (which were called "General Agreement No. 3" by the Southern Army). They were in outline as follows:⁽²³⁾

Operation Q (operation to capture Kuantan)

A unit consisting of two battalions of the 18th Division as its core shall assemble at Cap Saint Jacques (note: south of Saigon) no later than day $x + 15$, depart on day $x + 18$, and assemble at Singora no later than day $x + 20$. It shall [again] depart on day $x + 21$ (29 December), land in Kuantan around the 31st under the direct escort of an element of the 3d Destroyer Squadron, and seize the airfield near Kuantan in cooperation with the Takumi Detachment coming down south along the east coast of Malaya.

Note: The [pronunciation of] letter 'Q' is equivalent to [a Japanese word with the meaning of] "quick, rapid, or hurry." It expresses the Southern Army's intention at that time.

Operation S (operations against Endau and Mersing)

The main force of the 18th Division (with four infantry battalions as its core) shall depart from Humen in southern China around day $x + 31$, arrive in Cam Ranh Bay no later than day $x + 33$. It shall depart from Cam Ranh Bay around day $x + 36$ (13 January), and be put ashore in or near Endau or Mersing under the direct escort of a unit consisting of the 3d Destroyer Squadron as its core.

Transport of Part of the Twenty-fifth and the Fifteenth Armies

A unit under the direct control of the Twenty-fifth Army (in the 1st transport) and three infantry battalions and others of the 5th Division, and [also] a unit under the direct control of the Fifteenth Army and half of the 33d Division (55 ships in total) shall leave Magong on day $x + 23$. The former shall land at Singora around day $x + 30$ (7 January) escorted by the 5th Destroyer Squadron (which belongs to the Philippines Unit and which provided cover for the landing of the Tanaka Detachment at Aparri and that of the main force of the 48th Division at Lingayen Gulf). The latter shall land in Cap Saint Jacques or Saigon around day $x + 28$ under cover of the *Kashii* (a training cruiser), the *Shimushu* (a coastal defense ship), and others.

On that day (the 23d), Staff Officer Oda Akimitsu of the Sixteenth Army arrived in Saigon with "the Sixteenth Army operation plan which had just been finalized on the 21st" in hand in order to report [the plan to the Southern Army].⁽²⁴⁾ Having thought that the Sixteenth Army headquarters would not leave [Tokyo] for another month or more, he was surprised to hear about the advancement of [the schedule of] the Java operation. He decided to stay in Saigon with only the barest necessities [he had brought with him] and sent a telegram to the head-

quarters of the army in Tokyo, advising that the command post [of the army] be advanced to Saigon immediately.⁽⁴⁰⁾

[Also] on that day (the 23d), the main force of the [Navy Hawaii] Task Force returned to Hashirajima in the Inland Sea.⁽¹⁰³⁾ However, the 2d Carrier Division was to return later due to its cooperation in the second attack on Wake Island (which was captured on the 23d).⁽¹⁰³⁾

On receipt of the previously mentioned telegram from [Colonel] Hattori, chief of Section 2, at the Army Department of IGHQ, Staff Officer Okamura Masayuki went to liaise with the Navy Department on the next day, the 24th. On the same day, he reported the following results:⁽⁹⁾

1. The Combined Fleet wants to capture Ambon around day $x + 30$. The reasons are that it wants to capture the island before the enemy reinforces it, and also that it wants to dispose of Ambon quickly in order to make aircraft carriers available for [the operation to] capture Java (around day $x + 80$), etc. On the other hand, Commander Yamamoto of the Navy Department wants to have the 2d Carrier Division depart from Moji around 10 January (day $x + 33$) and capture Ambon around day $x + 55$.
2. The Navy Department wants an increase in the strength of Detachment B assigned to capture Ambon to three battalions if the Southern Army does not need the 56th Division for the Malaya operation.
3. The Navy Department wants Pontianak to be captured by the Kawaguchi Detachment around day $x + 40$ (17 January) so that the air operations against southern Sumatra and western Java can be more favorably conducted.
4. The Navy Department wants the 38th Division to leave Hong Kong on day $x + 40$ (17 January) and land in southern Sumatra around day $x + 60$ (6 February), because it will be impossible to [carry out the operations to] capture Palembang on day $x + 50$ (27 January) due to [issues of] escort.
5. The Navy Department wants the capture of Singapore to precede that of Medan in northern Sumatra.

Let me add a little more explanation to the above report of Staff Officer Okamura. The first point concerns Ambon. In the original plan, Ambon was scheduled "to be captured by the South Seas Detachment." Then it was changed to "to be captured by the South Seas Detachment (or depending on the situation, by Detachment B)." In IGHQ's plan it was supposed "to be captured while seizing an opportunity."⁽²³⁾ The Southern Army did not seem much interested in capturing Ambon either, because it attached more importance to the line of operations directed straight toward Java. However, the unexpected battle results achieved in various regions in the initial operations gave the Combined Fleet hope to capture Ambon at an early moment. Ambon was a strategically important place against the U.S. and Australian forces, and there was also a report that the Australian Army had moved into Ambon.⁽²³⁾ In the meantime, as the South Seas Detachment was still in Guam waiting for the opportunity to start for Rabaul, it was decided that Detachment B should be used [for the capture of Ambon] instead of the South Seas Detachment (with three battalions as its core). This led [the Navy Department] to request the reinforcement of Detachment B, originally set to consist of two battalions as its core, to three battalions as the core. The second point is that the Naval General Staff and the Combined Fleet considered using the strength of the First Air Fleet (an aircraft carrier fleet) for capturing Java (around 26 February). The third point concerns the fact that a naval plane had found a large airfield at Ledo (in the hinterland of Pontianak).⁽²³⁾

This led the Navy Department to plan this new [operation] of capturing it in order to enhance the support for the air operations against Sumatra and western Java. [However,] on that day (the 24th), the Kawaguchi Detachment had not yet seized the Kuching airfield. The fourth point concerns the plan of the Southern Army to use the 18th Division, which would arrive first, instead of the 56th Division for the east coast of Malaya, and to change the task of the 56th Division to the capture of northern Sumatra. When the Navy tried to reschedule the escorts for the 18th Division from southern China to Malaya, those for the previously mentioned units of the Twenty-fifth and the Fifteenth Armies from Magong to Singora and to Saigon, those for the 38th Division from southern China to southern Sumatra, and those for the main force of the Sixteenth Army from Taiwan to Cam Ranh Bay, it came to the conclusion that for reasons of escort capacity it was impossible to let the 38th Division capture Bangka and Palembang around day $x + 50$ (27 January), and that the operations for capturing northern Sumatra should be executed after the capture of Singapore. [The Navy] then wondered why the division assigned to capture Singapore could not be used for the capture of northern Sumatra as well, and it questioned the need for the 56th Division in the northern Sumatra operation.

As previously described, the [Navy] Southern Task Force was not exactly pleased with the Southern Army's changes in the plan. On that day (the 24th), however, the Navy Department of IGHQ held a meeting with the Combined Fleet and the First Air Fleet, where they reached the conclusions as indicated in the previously cited report of Staff Officer Okamura, so on that day, the chief of staff of the Combined Fleet sent the following telegram to the Southern Task Force:⁽²³⁾

Dated 24 [December] from Chief of Staff, Combined Fleet

To Chief of Staff, Second Fleet

1. The Army asked our opinion about advancing [the schedule of] the southern operation. The Combined Fleet replied that it agreed to the idea in principle and asked [the Army] to discuss details with the Second Fleet. So you should consult with the Southern Army so as to shorten the schedule of this operation as much as possible in view of the current war momentum.
2. The 2d Carrier Division is expected to be transferred to the Southern Task Force in the next phase and be able to advance to Palau in early January.
3. In relation to the recent situation of enemy reinforcements coming from Australia, it is at present necessary to promptly conquer the line from Ambon to Kupang. We would like you to study a plan to capture Ambon as well as Tarakan and Menado simultaneously around day $x + 30$.

As will be explained later, from the standpoint of the Southern Task Force, it was totally unthinkable to seize Ambon along with Tarakan and Menado at the same time in terms of escort strength, the situation of the Sixteenth Army and the 38th Division, etc. The Combined Fleet, however, was very keen on the capture of Ambon.

The next day, the 25th, the Southern Task Force replied to the above-cited telegram as follows:^(23, 117)

1. As for conducting the current operations in the area of the Dutch East Indies Unit, the following plan is under consideration with due regard to the Combined Fleet classified telegram No. 929.
 - a) Standard schedule of capturing

[Capture of] Tarakan around 10 January, Balikpapan and Kendari around 20 January, Ambon around 25 January, and Timor Island around 15 February. However, [the capture of] Kendari could be after [the capture of] Ambon depending on the situation.

b) Forces to be employed for escorting

[The escort on] the line between Tarakan and Balikpapan will be a force consisting of the 4th Destroyer Squadron as the core, and the others a force consisting of the 2d Destroyer Squadron as the core.

2. Concerning the preparation and use of the army forces to be employed for the capture of Ambon and Kupang, we will promptly discuss the matter with the Southern Army. However, in view of the situation in those areas, we would like to request a favor of central command as well in that it will consider pushing the Army to prepare particularly strong forces.

This telegram raises the question of why Menado was omitted. Concerning this matter, "landing in Menado was arranged approximately day $x + 23$, and in Tarakan by approximately day $x + 25$ " in the Agreement between the Southern Army and the Southern Task Force of 10 November. However, in the meetings for the Iwakuni Agreement on 16 November, the Navy had [presented] a plan in which the capture of Menado was scheduled a week earlier than that of Tarakan, which made the Army demand that "both should be captured at the same time because [these places] were the first points to be captured in the Dutch East Indies." [At that time,] the Navy promised to state for the record that "Menado will be captured about the same time as Tarakan." Still, in Operation Order No. 1 of the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit issued on 23 November, which should have been based on the [Iwakuni] Agreement, it stated that "Menado [shall be captured] around day $x + 33$, and Tarakan around day $x + 35$." After that, the issue remained undecided.

In the above telegram, a plan of how to employ the 2d and the 4th Destroyer Squadron was mentioned. Actually, the destroyer squadrons [assigned to] the Southern Task Force were the 2d to the 5th Squadrons ([according to] the standard formation, a destroyer squadron consisted of a light cruiser and four destroyer divisions (although the 5th Destroyer Squadron had [only] two divisions); a destroyer division consisted of two sections, and a section consisted of two destroyers). They were employed as follows:^(117, 118, 119, 120)

The 2d Destroyer Squadron (the [light cruiser] *Jintsū* and the 8th, the 15th, and the 16th Destroyer Division): was assigned to the Philippines Unit and, with its main force, charged with the escort of the transport convoy of the unit for capturing Legaspi, Davao, Jolo, etc.

Note: The 18th Destroyer Division was also included in the squadron formation, but it was transferred to the [Hawaii] Task Force.

The 3d Destroyer Squadron (the [light cruiser] *Sendai* and the 11th, the 12th, the 19th and the 20th Destroyer Divisions): was assigned to the Malaya Unit and charged with the escort of the transport convoy in the Malaya, British Borneo and Sumatra areas.

The 4th Destroyer Squadron (the [light cruiser] *Naka* and the 2d, the 4th, the 9th and the 24th Destroyer Divisions): was assigned to the Philippines Unit and, with its main force, charged with the escort of the Kanno Detachment to Vigan and the main force of the army to Lingayen. The 5th Destroyer Squadron (the [light cruiser] *Natori* and the 5th and the 22d Destroyer Division): was assigned to the Philippines Unit and, with its main force, charged with the escort of the Tanaka Detachment to Aparri and the main force of the Fourteenth Army to Lingayen Gulf. After that, it was temporarily charged with the escort of the transport convoy of the main force of the Twenty-fifth Army and an element of the Fifteenth Army under the command of the

Malaya Unit. Next, it was supposed to return to the Dutch East Indies Unit to escort the main force of the Sixteenth Army to western Java.

The escort for the transport of the main force of the 16th Division from Amami Ōshima to Lamon Bay was conducted by the Commander of the 1st Base Force who had an element of the 4th Destroyer Squadron assigned to his command.⁽¹²⁴⁾

The Malaya Unit, which provided cover to the first landing (launched on the 8th) and the second landing (launched on the 16th) of the Malaya advance corps and also to the Kawaguchi Detachment's British Borneo operations (its landing was launched on the 16th at Miri), had announced the shift of the disposition of forces to phase-two dispositions on the previous day (the 24th).⁽¹²⁰⁾ Also, on the same day, the unit passed down [as an order] the outline of Operation Q.⁽¹¹⁸⁾ [In the meantime,] after the landing at Miri on the 16th, the Kawaguchi Detachment had postponed its departure for capturing Kuching scheduled for the 20th, because it came under attack from a flying boat and three or four bombers three times on the 17th, from two or three bombers from the direction of Kuching several times on the 18th, and from a total of six bombers from the direction of Tarakan twice on the 19th. However, as eighteen planes of the Malaya Unit advanced to the Miri airfield from French Indochina on the 22d, [the detachment] departed from Miri at 1500 on the same day. It came ashore at Kuching on the morning of the 24th (which is three days behind schedule), and seized the Kuching airfield at 1640 on the 25th.^(91, 92, 118, 130) The main unit of the Philippines Unit, which had supported the main force of the Fourteenth Army to land around Lingayen Gulf, returned to Magong on the 23d.⁽¹⁰³⁾ The main unit of the Southern Task Force, which also had supported the landing of the main force of the Fourteenth Army around Lingayen Gulf, formed the Eastern Support Unit with the battleship *Haruna* and lesser vessels on the 23d, and sent it separately toward the waters east of Mindanao, while the main force returned to Cam Ranh Bay on the 24th.⁽¹⁰³⁾ The landings in Davao and Jolo were successfully carried out on the 20th and the 25th respectively.^(114, 117)

[Taking advantage of] the momentum to advance the Java operation and of the situation described above, the Combined Fleet transmitted a preliminary order on this day (the 25th) that "it would shift the disposition of forces to phase-two dispositions as of 1200 on the 26th," which was two days ahead of schedule, and officially announced the order on the next day, the 26th.⁽¹¹⁷⁾

Upon receiving the above order (on the 26th), the Southern Task Force immediately issued an order to shift the disposition of forces to phase-two dispositions.⁽¹¹⁹⁾ At that time, the Southern Task Force judged that the surface ships of the allied forces had retreated mainly to the Dutch East Indies and decided in outline on the following operational policy for phase two.⁽¹¹⁰⁾

1. As the Philippines operations are for the most part finished, the Philippines Unit (i.e. the Third Fleet) will divert most of its fleet to the Dutch East Indies operation, leaving [only] an element of small warships in the Philippines.
2. The land-based unit (i.e. the Eleventh Air Fleet, whose main force is [still] in Taiwan, and whose 21st Air Flotilla Headquarters has advanced to Palau on the 19th) will continuously have an element of its force cooperate with the Army in its operations against Luzon from Taiwan, while having the main force of the unit advance to Davao and Jolo to employ it in the Dutch East Indies operation.

3. In the Malaya area, the main force of the Twenty-fifth Army shall promptly be put ashore in order to try to capture Singapore at an early date, while an air unit (the 22d Air Flotilla) shall be advanced to western Borneo and northern Malaya to carry out air operations over the Java Sea and the Malacca Strait in cooperation with the unit advanced into the eastern regions [i.e. in eastern Borneo and further east].
4. The 5th Submarine Squadron deployed in the Malaya area shall come under the direct command of the Southern Task Force and be advanced to Penang and further toward the Indian Ocean, the 6th Submarine Squadron shall be advanced toward the direction of Australia, and the 4th Submarine Squadron, while still assigned to the Malaya Unit, shall be advanced to the Java Sea to engage in submarine warfare.
5. The [Navy] paratroop unit (i.e. the 1st and the 3d Yokosuka Special Landing Force assigned to the Eleventh Air Fleet) shall be first employed for Tarakan (or depending on the situation, Menado).
6. The 2d Carrier Division (consisting of two aircraft carriers), which shall be newly assigned (note: expected to be transferred to the Eleventh Air Fleet around 16 January), shall first of all cooperate in the capture of Ambon.

The [Army Department of] IGHQ, which had received the previously mentioned telegram from Colonel Hattori on the 22d, studied [the possibility of] increasing the shipping tonnage by 150,000 tons as requested by the Southern Army, only to reply to the army on the 27th that it could not afford to provide additional ships.^(23, 24) On receiving this telegram, the Southern Army simultaneously learned that the Army Department of IGHQ had ordered the Shipping Transport Command to prepare the return of some 300,000 tons from the South to the homeland by the end of February.^(23, 24) The Southern Army took this matter very seriously, and immediately on the same day sent the following telegram:^(23, 24)

Dated 27 [December] from Chief of Staff, Southern Army

To Vice Chief of Army General Staff

1. I received Army General Staff Telegram No. 43. It is extremely disappointing that there is no likelihood of an additional requisition of ships. Now that it has come to this, we will study [the matter] and do our best to manage [the necessary transportation] with the currently allocated ships. As you are fully aware, in order to bring forward the Java operation, the [Southern] Army is rearranging the entire [shipping plan] by calling off or putting off [some of] the transportation of other armies, and it cannot be managed by [only] rearranging the shipping [plan] of one area. Therefore, it would be appreciated if you understand that it cannot be decided solely by the opinion of the Sixteenth Army as suggested in your reply.
2. Also, according to Central Shipping Transport Telegram No. 308, an order was transmitted to the captain general of Shipping Transport Command to prepare the return of some 300,000 tons to the mainland from January until the end of February, just when the shipping for our operations will be at its peak. As this will affect the foundation of our operation plan, we would like to be informed of the actual situation immediately.

On that day (the 27th), the Southern Army decided to cancel Operation Q.^(23, 24) This came about as follows:^(23, 24)

On completing the previously mentioned arrangements with the Malaya Unit on the 23d, the Southern Army had passed down an order [for Operation Q] to the Twenty-fifth Army and the

Third Air Force on the same day. The Southern Task Force also gave an order the next day, the 24th. However, even though the [Navy] Malaya Unit, the Twenty-fifth Army and the Third Air Force had for the time being consented to the Kuantan landing operation at the strong insistence of the Southern Army and made arrangements and passed down the orders for it as previously described, all three still had misgivings and in the end came to regard it as unsuitable.

The [Navy] Malaya Unit was annoyed because [the operation] had not been included in the original plan and came suddenly out of the blue. Moreover, it felt that [the operation] was risky unless it gained control over the allied air power in Singapore.

The Third Air Force thought it odd that it had to gain air control over Singapore in advance in order to capture Kuantan for its own sake, instead of [the original idea of] capturing Kuantan for the purpose of attacking the allied air forces in Singapore [and other places].

The Twenty-fifth Army felt that it had better not conduct the risky Kuantan landing operation, because the Takumi Detachment was coming south at a good speed along the east coast toward Kuantan.

Nevertheless, arrangements were made and the order was passed down. Despite the efforts of the Third Air Force and the Malaya Unit, little progress was made with the preparation and implementation [of attacks] for gaining air control over Singapore.

The Koba Detachment (consisting of two battalions of the 18th Division as its core), charged with the capture of Kuantan, left Guangdong on the 20th, entered the port of Cap Saint Jacques on the 23d, [again] left it on the 25th under cover of the 3d Destroyer Squadron and arrived in Singora on the morning of 27th. By this time, the judgment was that the Takumi Detachment would be able to seize Kuantan by around the 31st at the latest.

On this day, both the Twenty-fifth Army and the Third Air Force offered their opinion that the Kuantan landing operation should be called off. The Malaya Unit also informed the Southern Army on this day that it was not confident [about the operation]. That evening, the Southern Army unwillingly decided to call off Operation Q. [In the altered plan,] the Koba Detachment was to land in Kota Bharu and rush toward Kuantan by land.

As for western Borneo, on the previous day (the 26th), the Southern Army had sent a telegram to the commander of the Kawaguchi Detachment (in Kuching) to "investigate and report immediately on [the possibility] to seize airfields near Bara or Ledo by either land or sea as quickly as possible in further cooperation with the Navy. The results of reconnaissance by the air units will be forwarded later."⁽²³⁾ However, on the 28th [the Southern Army] received information from [the Army Department of] IGHQ about a road between Kuching and Singkawang, and on the same day, ordered the detachment to prepare for the capture of Ledo as follows:⁽²³⁾

Dated 28 [December] from Chief of Staff, Southern Army

To Detachment Commander Kawaguchi

1. The road between Kuching and Singkawang seems [good enough] to be used by motor vehicles.
2. We would like the Kawaguchi Detachment to be ready to seize, without missing an opportunity, airfields near Bengkayang or, depending on the situation, a port (Singkawang or Pontianak), which leads to these [airfields].

The 21st Air Flotilla headquarters had advanced into Davao from Palau on the previous day (the 27th). The Sakaguchi Detachment had landed in Davao on the 20th, and the Matsumoto Detachment had landed in Jolo on the 25th, as previously described. The 48th and the 16th

Divisions were rushing to Manila from Lingayen Gulf and Lamon Bay respectively. The Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters and the 23d Air Flotilla headquarters were still in Taiwan. On that day (the 28th), the commander of the [Navy] Southern Task Force, estimating that the start of [the operations for] capturing Tarakan and Menado would be around 10 January, gave an order to his Eastern Support Unit to leave Magong at a suitable moment and advance to the waters between Mindanao and Palau. He also indicated that the main unit of the Southern Task Force should leave Cam Ranh Bay on 9 January and Magong on the 14th to advance to Palau.⁽¹²⁰⁾ On this day (the 28th), the Dutch East Indies Unit (the former Philippines Unit, presently in Magong) issued [an order to shift to] phase-two dispositions.⁽¹¹⁷⁾ The Sixteenth Army headquarters was still located in Tokyo.

On the next day, the 29th, General Terauchi, commander in chief of the Southern Army had a meeting with Vice Admiral Kondō, commander of the Southern Task Force, on the heavy cruiser *Atago*, the flagship of the Southern Task Force, in Cam Ranh Bay to discuss advancing [the schedule of] the Java operation and informally reached an agreement.⁽²³⁾ This means that they had the meeting nineteen days ahead of schedule, despite the fact that the [previous] agreement on 10 November specified that “[a meeting for] the next agreement will be around day x + 40.” [In the meeting,] it was informally agreed that the capture of Bangka and Palembang would be around day x + 60 and that of Java around day x + 70 (16 February).⁽²³⁾ As previously mentioned, the capture of Java had been scheduled for around day x + 103 in the IGHQ plan. On the same day (the 29th) as the above agreement was reached, Vice Admiral Takahashi, commander of the Dutch East Indies Unit (the [former] Philippines Unit), issued his orders concerning the Dutch East Indies operation by way of the Dutch East Indies (Philippines) Unit Classified Order No. 3.⁽¹¹⁰⁾

The next day, the 30th, Chief of the Army General Staff Sugiyama had a talk with Chief of the Navy General Staff Nagano and requested the cooperation of the Navy in the acceleration of the Java operation in the following terms.⁽²⁾ [Meanwhile] the Combined Fleet, which had captured Wake Island in the second attack on the 23d, was going to capture Rabaul in cooperation with the South Seas Detachment in late January, and along with this [progress], had become enthusiastic about [attacking] areas of northeastern Australia.

Needless to say, the Java operation is very difficult. [In fact,] in the light of the results of previous studies such as war games and others, the operations against Malaya and Java were deemed the most difficult. This can be said in particular about the air operations. As it is, in the Malaya operation, owing to divine aid and the close cooperation between the Army and the Navy, we were able to achieve brilliant military gains by conducting a surprise attack on the enemy. However, as for the Java operation that we will conduct shortly, we must expect that it will be extremely difficult compared to the Malaya operation, owing to the facts that the enemy has rapidly been reinforcing its defense in the area these days, that it is more difficult to make a surprise attack on Java than on Malaya, and that the enemy is getting familiar with our ways of conducting landing operations, and so on. In view of these characteristics of the Java operation, the Army is determined to accomplish the operation after thorough preparations. We sincerely hope that the Navy will also closely cooperate [with the Army] in various operations, in air operations in particular, so that we can fully demonstrate the essence of cooperation between the Army and the Navy in the final stage of the southern operation.

After obtaining the approval of central command and the Combined Fleet, on 1 January (1942), the commander in chief of the Southern Army and the commander of the Southern Task Force signed the draft agreement of the 29th on bringing forward the Java operation.⁽²³⁾

On 4 January when the New Year functions of the Imperial Court were over, Chief of the Army General Staff Sugiyama offered the Emperor the following report on the advance of [the schedule of] the Java operation:⁽²⁾

Allow me to humbly offer my report on the conduct of our future operations in the southern area. As I have often reported, the operations in the southern areas have on the whole been developing quite favorably. Enemy bases such as Hong Kong and Manila have already been seized in land battles, and now we have come to the conclusion that the capture of Singapore will also come about in just over one month. In sea battles, we delivered fatal blows to the U.S. and British naval forces in the Pacific Ocean. I know that at this very moment the Imperial Army and Navy are in full-scale pursuit of the enemy on land, at sea and in the air in the southwest Pacific. Of course, we realize that we must stay on our guard even more so after victory and that we must strictly guard against any failure or setback caused by negligence or carelessness. However, we consider it appropriate to use this momentum of the war, take advantage of the fact that the enemy has yet to recover his whole posture and promptly finish the capture of predetermined areas such as Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaya, Burma and the Dutch East Indies. The swift completion of the capture of the above predetermined areas is not only advantageous for pursuing the southern operation itself, I also believe it is all the more imperative when considering the conduct of the Empire's war from a political and military strategic point of view, especially in view of the changing state of affairs in the northern area. That is, I think that it is appropriate to carry out the Dutch East Indies operation ahead of the initially conceived [schedule] and conduct the Burma operation as soon as possible. Hereafter, I will relate the details of how to bring forward the Dutch East Indies operation and implement the Burma operation.

1. The conduct of the Dutch East Indies operation

Based on the above-mentioned judgment of the situation, the commander in chief of the Southern Army made the following agreement with the commander in chief of the Second Fleet on this operation.

Although the outline of the operations against the Dutch East Indies is the same as that which was already shown to you along with the war games, etc., the dates of conducting the operations have been advanced in all areas ahead of schedule in the light of the present situation where the enemy army as well as navy in the Dutch East Indies is being reinforced. That is, [we will first] set the landing of the main force of the Sixteenth Army on Java about day $x + 70$ (16 February, about one month ahead of schedule) as the standard, and accordingly set the landings in or around Bangka and Palembang, which have to precede the landing in Java, around day $x + 60$ (6 February), the landing in Ambon around day $x + 48$ (25 January), and in Kupang about day $x + 65$ (11 February), and all operations will be directed [on this basis].

For this purpose, the 38th Division, which was charged with the capture of Hong Kong and performed brilliantly, has quickly replaced its losses after the fall of Hong Kong, and has already started boarding the ships in order for its main force to operate in Bangka and Palembang, and for an element of it to operate in Ambon and Kupang as the Eastern Detachment. Likewise, the 48th Division, which was charged with the operations against the Philippines, has turned over the remaining operations in Bataan Peninsula to other corps and is gradually assembling in order to prepare for the Dutch East Indies operation. The commander of the Sixteenth Army, who was standing by on the mainland, has already gone to Saigon, and the 2d Division will successively depart from the mainland in the second half of this month.

As this advancement of the Dutch East Indies operation changes the scheduled dates, some tightness in shipping, escort, etc. may occur. It is also expected that the early transfer of the 48th Division may cause to some extent a delay in destroying the enemy on Bataan Peninsula. It may, perhaps, also somewhat delay the transportation of the 56th Division. However, from the point of view of conducting the whole operation as we first explained, we consider [the advancing of the schedule] appropriate. Moreover, as it is within the task you assigned to the commander in chief of the Southern Army, the Army Department [of IGHQ], in complete unity with the Navy Department has been providing directions to the best of its ability in order to facilitate the army on site to accomplish the plan. In this regard, I would like you to give an order to incorporate the 38th Division into the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army today, and later an order to incorporate [other] units under the direct control of other armies into the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army.

2. The Burma operation

We have studied how to conduct the Burma operation for a long time and after doing research with the army on site as well, for the most part completed a final draft, which I would like to bring to your attention.

(Omitted by the author. This part explains [the Army's plan] that, with the objective to secure key areas in Burma after destroying the British Army as well as tightening the blockade against China, the Fifteenth Army will advance along the line of the Salween River near Moulmein as quickly as possible, make preparations for [subsequent] operations, and with its main force promptly occupy key areas in central Burma from the area along the road between Moulmein and Pegu, and that the force to be employed will be the 33d Division and the 55th Division as its core, possibly reinforced with the 56th Division and others.)

Concerning the full-scale operations against Burma as described above, and after further communication with the Navy, I would like to ask your favor of giving an Imperial Order to the commander in chief of the Southern Army [to execute the operations].

In short, I have reported on the advancement of [the schedule of] the Dutch East Indies operation and the implementation of the Burma operation in regard to the conduct of subsequent operations in the southern area. Furthermore, the South Seas Detachment is expected to land on the Bismarck Archipelago on the 23d of this month. If these operations progress smoothly from now on, we expect to be able to complete the capture of the predetermined areas by around the end of March. We will even more try not to make mistakes in the operation plans and thereby promptly accomplish the original objectives. Herewith I conclude my report.

2. The Cam Ranh Agreement and Shipping Issues

Contents of the Agreement

The memorandum of agreement informally reached on 29 December in Cam Ranh Bay and signed on 1 January was as follows:^(23, 95)

General Agreement No. 4

Memorandum of Agreement Between the Commander in Chief of the Navy in the Southern Area and the Commander in Chief of the Southern Army

1 January 1942

General Terauchi Hisaichi, commander in chief, Southern Army

V. Adm. Kondō Nobutake, commander in chief, Second Fleet

In view of the current progress of the southern operations, the following revisions and additions were made to the agreement of 10 November 1941:

1. Standard dates [to implement operations] of capturing

[Based on] the following standard schedule, implementation [of each operation] is to be arranged between the relevant commanders:

Date of start of landing	Key areas to capture (* stands for the areas which the Navy will capture unassisted)	Assembly points	Commanders between whom an arrangement should be made
Day x + 33	* Menado and vicinity Tarakan and vicinity	Davao or Jolo	Commander in chief of the Third Fleet Commander of the Sixteenth Army
Day x + 43	* Kendari and vicinity Balikpapan and vicinity	Menado and Tarakan	
Day x + 48	Ambon	Davao	
Day x + 53	* Makassar and vicinity Banjarmasin and vicinity	Kendari and Balikpapan	
Roughly day x + 60	Bangka and Palembang	Cam Ranh	Commander in chief of the Southern Expeditionary Fleet Commander of the Sixteenth Army
Roughly day x + 65	Kupang	Ambon	Commander in chief of the Third Fleet Commander of the Sixteenth Army
Roughly day x + 70	Java	Luzon Island for eastern Java Gaoxiong for western Java	Same as above
Roughly day x + 80	Northern Sumatra	Penang	Commander in chief of the Southern Expeditionary Fleet Commander of the Twenty-fifth Army
For others, the arrangements between the supreme commanders of the Army and the Navy in each area will apply			

2. [The Army's] Sea transport and assignment of escort [by the Navy]

A summary of the transport [plan] of the Army and the escort to be provided [by the Navy] are as shown in the attached chart. (Omitted by the author.)

A comparison of dates in the plan and the actual [dates of] implementation [of the operations] concerning the places already captured is as follows:

Key areas captured	Agreement between the Southern Army and the Navy on 10 November (General Agreement No. 2)	Arrangements between the Fourteenth and the Sixteenth Army and the Navy on 16 November and those between the Twenty-fifth Army and the Navy on 18 November	Implementation
Batan Island, Ban Don, Nakhon, Singora, and Pattani	Day x (8 December)	Same as on the left	8 December
Vigan and Aparri	Day x + 1 (9 December)	Day x + 2 (10 December)	10 December
Legaspi	No later than day x + 4 (12 December)	Day x + 4 (12 December)	12 December
Davao	No later than day x + 6 (14 December)	Day x + 6 (14 December)	20 December
Singora, Pattani and their vicinities	Around day x + 8 (16 December)		16 December
Miri and its vicinity	Around day x + 8 (16 December)		16 December
Kuching	Around day x + 13 (21 December)		24 December
Jolo	Around day x + 13 (21 December)		25 December
Lingayen Gulf	By around day x + 14 (22 December)	Day x + 14 (22 December)	22 December
Lamon Bay	Same as above	Day x + 16 (24 December)	24 December

A comparison of the schedule to capture targets yet to be captured in the agreements and arrangements made so far and in the agreement made this time is as follows:

Target to be captured	Central Agreement, 5 November	General Agreement No. 2, 10 November	Iwakuni Agreement, 16 November	General Agreement No. 4, 1 January
Menado		Around day x + 23	About the same time as Tarakan	Day x + 33
Tarakan		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 $x + 43$
Makassar		Around day $x + 45$	Day $x + 54$	Day $x + 53$
Banjarmasin		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 and Palembang	Day $x + 85$	By and large around day $x + 80$		Roughly day $x + 60$
Java	Day $x + 103$	By and large around day $x + 80$		Roughly day $x + 70$
Northern Sumatra				Roughly day $x + 80$

Confusion Caused by Bringing Forward the Java Operation

After the war, Army Commander Imamura and staff officers of the Sixteenth Army unanimously recalled that “the headquarters of the army were scheduled to leave Tokyo in mid-January and we were preparing the operations; then, around 23 December, all of a sudden the request came to advance to the South in quick order, which was followed by telegrams urging us to come to the South. We had to wait for planes to be arranged and left Tokyo on the 30th.” As described previously, Staff Officer Oda, who had left [Tokyo] around the 22d to liaise with [the Southern Army], ended up remaining in Saigon. On the other hand, Lt. Col. Ueno Shigeru, staff officer of Shipping Transport Command, who was working at its Saigon command post and was also posted to the Southern Army, recalled the situation as follows:

Around 20 December, the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command sent his chief of the staff and Staff Officer Mabuchi back home to Ujina to prepare the Java operation based on the prearranged plan, and ordered them to prepare the transport for the 2d Division, the transport ships for the landing on Java, and matériel for small boats. However, in Saigon, it was suddenly decided to advance [the schedule of] the Java operation by one month based on the intention of the Southern Army. We fundamentally changed the original plan, and started to handle the shipping according to a new plan, which was in outline as follows:

1. The transportation of units under the direct control of the Twenty-fifth Army scheduled in and after January will be slightly delayed and the transport ships will be changed.
2. The transportation of the 21st Division will be postponed so as to land in Haiphong in February.
3. The transportation of the 33d Division and the units under the direct control of the Fifteenth Army will be postponed and the transport ships will be changed.

By the above arrangements, some 90,000 tons, consisting of eighteen transport ships, for the main force of the 38th Division will be moved to Hong Kong around 10 January, some 210,000 tons, consisting of forty transport ships, for the 2d Division and the unit under the direct control of the Sixteenth Army will be moved to Gaoxiong, and some 170,000 tons, consisting of thirty-five transport ships, for the 48th Division will be moved to Lingayen, both by the scheduled date.

Although the above arrangements were, of course, immediately communicated to [the headquarters in] Ujina, they had no way of knowing the intention of the Southern Army, and it seems that no information concerning the advancement of the landings on Java was provided at that moment by IGHQ [either]. This caused unexpected trouble. The transport ships, which left Japan's mainland, Dalian and Shanghai, acted against the intention of [the command post in] Saigon. It seems that the transport ships and shipping units were confused by different instructions from Saigon and Ujina. Although it was just for one or two days, the whole shipping situation was thrown into total confusion.

The above recollections raise the question of what brought about the confusion despite the fact that the schedule in General Agreement No. 2 (the agreement between the Southern Army and the Navy Southern Task Force concluded at the War College on 10 November, [which set the capture of] Java on day $x + 80$) did not much differ from that in General Agreement No. 4 (the agreement between the Southern Army and the Navy Southern Task Force concluded at Cam Ranh Bay on 1 January, [which set the capture of] Java on day $x + 70$), the fact that General Agreement No. 2 was given as an instruction in the separate volume of Southern Army Operation Order No. 1 (dated 15 November), and the fact that the Saigon command post of the Shipping Transport Command (captain general: Lieutenant General Saeki) was attached to the Southern Army. Furthermore, it raises the question of how the situation could develop in the above-mentioned way even though the Chief of the Army General Staff Sugiyama and other staff of the Army Department of IGHQ had been present at the conclusion of General Agreement No. 2 at the War College on 10 November and had been informed of Southern Army Operation Order No. 1.

The reason was that the Southern Army in Southern Army Operation Order No. 1 only ordered the commanders of the armies, the air force, and the commander of the Kawaguchi Detachment to make arrangements on operations with the Navy commanders concerned, based on the excerpts of the Army-Navy Central Agreement, and the General Agreement No. 2 (see the previous description for the original text), but the order lacked [directives concerning] the shipping arrangements to back up [the above arrangements].

Most of the ships were operated under the direct control of IGHQ. (Note: For example, in December 1942, when the southern operation was over and fierce battles were fought in the Solomons, out of an Army tonnage of 1.26 million tons, 200,000 tons were allotted to the Southern Army, 20,000 tons to the China Expeditionary Army, but 1.04 million tons were employed under the direct control of IGHQ.)

More specifically, in the Army Department [of IGHQ], the chief of transport and communications (the director of Department 3) under the command of the inspector general of lines of communication (i.e. the vice chief of the Army General Staff [Lt. Gen. Tanabe Moritake]) planned the operation of ships under the direct control of IGHQ and gave instructions to the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command (who was under the command of the chief of Army General Staff) to operate the ships according to plan. This means that the commander in chief of the Southern Army had no discretion to operate ships that were under

the direct control of central command, nor was the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command (Lt. Gen. Saeki Bunrō) allowed to operate such ships by order of the Southern Army even though he was posted to the commander in chief of the Southern Army with regard to the southern operation.

Although the previously mentioned Southern Army Operations Order No.1 was distributed to the Shipping Transport Command (more precisely its command post), it believed that the order had been distributed just for reference and paid no attention to it. Moreover, with respect to shipping, it considered the Sixteenth Army as so-called “passengers.” Furthermore, it assumed that the shipping plan indicated in the instruction issued by the chief of the Army General Staff of the Army Department of IGHQ (i.e. the Central Agreement [which was attached as a separate volume]) was the only one in force. Still more, as described previously, IGHQ ([particularly] the Inspectorate General of Lines of Communication and the Bureau of the Chief of Transportation and Communication) considered General Agreement No. 2 of 10 November as an impractical idea or wishful thinking.

Whatever the case, the Southern Army was well aware of the authority of each agency concerning such shipping operations. In this respect, the agreement between the Southern Army and the Southern Task Force of 10 November (i.e. General Agreement No. 2) was concluded to set the target they were striving after and it was something that demanded serious consideration from the Army Department of IGHQ (and should it prove feasible, measures for implementation).

Distinctive Features of the Cam Ranh Agreement

The main points, which might also be called the distinctive features, of the agreement signed on 1 January are the following:

1. [The schedule of] the landing on Java was set thirty-three days ahead of that in the Central Agreement of 5 November, and ten days ahead of the General Agreement No. 2 of 10 November.
2. Judging that the capture of Singapore would be possible in early February, about one month ahead of the originally estimated date of about day $x + 100$, it was decided to advance bases to southern Sumatra, while skipping over Singapore before completing its capture. It was also decided to advance a base to Ledo in western Borneo, so that naval planes could be advanced there.
 Note: Although the Southern Army insisted that Bangka and Palembang should be captured on day $x + 50$, it turned out that [the Navy] could not manage to provide escort forces at sea, and that it would take days to seize the airfield at Ledo and make it ready for use, so the date [to capture these places] was set around day $x + 60$.^(9, 23, 24, 119) On 6 January, the Southern Army ordered the Kawaguchi Detachment to capture Ledo.⁽²³⁾
3. As previously described, setting the capture of Tarakan and Menado on different days had been an issue, but it was agreed to set the date to capture both places on the same day [in this agreement]. [However,] it was put off by about three days due to the delay in the capture of Davao and Jolo, etc.
4. [The date to] capture Ambon was set on day $x + 48$ because, as previously mentioned, the Combined Fleet strongly demanded its capture at an early date. It was decided to use Detachment B for the capture instead of the South Seas Detachment and the force to be employed for Detachment B was increased to three battalions as requested by the Navy.^(9, 24) It was [also] decided to return the South Seas Detachment [to the control of the Army Department of IGHQ].

5. The starting point of the operations to capture Tarakan, Menado and Ambon [editor's note: the text mistakenly says Palau] was changed from Palau to Davao,⁽¹¹⁹⁾ for reasons that Davao was already seized and that the city was advantageous from a geographical point of view and the capacity of its base.
6. The capture of Bali was not included [in the agreement], for reasons that not sufficient time for its capture was expected any longer due to the extremely shortened schedule, that, unlike at the time of the Iwakuni Agreement, [the operations to] capture Southern Sumatra, Ledo and Kupang were set before the capture [of Java], and that an increase in lines of operation would cause a shortage of forces to be employed for escort.
7. The cooperation of an element of the Carrier Task Force (i.e. the 2d Carrier Division with the aircraft carriers, *Sōryū* and *Hiryū*) in capturing Ambon was included in the plan.⁽¹¹⁰⁾ [However,] at the time of the conclusion of this agreement, it was not [yet] determined whether or not the main force of the Carrier Task Force would cooperate in the operation to capture Java.
8. It was planned that the Navy air unit would advance into Borneo (including Ledo) and further east, and with a part also into Malaya and southern Sumatra, whereas the army air unit would advance into southern Sumatra from Malaya.^(23, 24)
9. It was [also] planned that the Twenty-fifth Army would capture Malaya only with the 5th Division, the Imperial Guard Division, and the 18th Division, and that, after the capture of Singapore, a part of the army was to capture northern Sumatra; the 56th Division was given up so that [the division could join] the Burma operation.^(23, 100)

Shipping Routes and Ships

The tonnage allotted to the Sixteenth Army for the invasion of the Dutch East Indies in the Cam Ranh Agreement was a total of 910,000 tons, in about 178 ships.⁽²³⁾ The breakdown was as follows:⁽²³⁾

Until the first landing in Java: 610,000 tons in about 118 ships

The second landing in Java and thereafter: 300,000 tons in about 60 ships

Note: The number of ships and tonnage are those specified in General Agreement No. 4. The same applies hereinafter.

The amount of tonnage, the shipping routes and the schedules for each corps, detachment, etc. were planned as follows:⁽²³⁾

Sakaguchi Detachment: [shall be provided with] about 46,000 tons in total in eight ships.

[The detachment] shall leave Jolo or Davao on 8 January (day x + 31), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in Tarakan on 10 January (day x + 33); shall leave Tarakan on 17 January (day x + 40), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in Balikpapan on 20 January (day x + 43); shall leave Balikpapan on 27 January (day x + 50), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, and land in Banjarmasin on 30 January (day x + 53).

Eastern Detachment (Detachment B, consisting of three battalions of the 38th Division): [shall be provided with] about 40,000 tons in total in about seven ships.

[The detachment] shall leave Hong Kong on 9 January (day x + 32), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, stay at Davao from 16 January (day x + 39) to 18 January (day x + 41); shall leave Davao on 19 January (day x + 42), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in Ambon on 25 January (day x + 48); shall leave Ambon on 7 February (day x + 61), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in Kupang on 11 February (day x + 65). The ships shall stay at Kupang for debarkation until 12 February (day x + 66).

Main force of the 38th Division (consisting of four battalions as its core): [shall be provided with] about 90,000 tons in total in about 18 ships.

[The unit] shall board in Hong Kong in the period from 11 January (day $x + 34$) to 19 January (day $x + 42$), leave Hong Kong on 20 January (day $x + 43$), sail under a light direct escort or under an indirect escort, stay in Cam Ranh Bay [for the period] from 25 January (day $x + 48$) to 29 January (day $x + 52$); shall leave Cam Ranh Bay on 30 January (day $x + 53$), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in Bangka and Palembang on 6 February (day $x + 60$). Disembarkation shall be completed on 7 February (day $x + 61$) and on 10 February (day $x + 64$) in Bangka and Palembang respectively.

Core unit of the 48th Division: [shall be provided with] about 220,000 tons in total in about 45 ships.

[The unit] shall board in Luzon Island in the period from 1 February (day $x + 55$) to 7 February (day $x + 61$), leave Luzon on 8 February (day $x + 62$), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in the vicinity of Surabaya on 16 February (day $x + 70$). Disembarkation shall be completed on 19 February (day $x + 73$). Of these ships, a tonnage of 170,000 tons in total in 35 ships shall comprise those which shall gather in Gaoxiong from the 21st to the 27th of January, and a tonnage of 50,000 tons in total in about 10 ships shall comprise those which shall gather in Gaoxiong from 3 December to 27 January from the mainland, Manchuria and Korea, China, etc.

Core unit of the 2d Division: [shall be provided with] 160,000 tons in total in about 30 ships.

[The unit] shall board in Osaka in the period from 11 January (day $x + 34$) to 19 January (day $x + 42$), sail under the indirect escort of the Navy, and stay at Gaoxiong during the period from 29 January (day $x + 52$) to 5 February (day $x + 59$); shall leave Gaoxiong on 6 February (day $x + 60$), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, and land in the vicinity of Batavia on 16 February (day $x + 70$). Disembarkation shall be completed on 19 February.

Unit under the direct control of the [Sixteenth] Army, which shall land in western Java: [shall be provided with] 50,000 tons in total in about 10 ships.

[The unit] shall board in China in the period from 23 January (day $x + 46$) to 27 January (day $x + 50$), leave on 28 January (day $x + 51$), stay at Gaoxiong from 2 February (day $x + 56$) to 5 February; shall leave on the next day, the 6th (day $x + 60$), sail under the direct escort of the Navy, land in western Java on 16 February (day $x + 70$). Disembarkation shall be completed on 19 February.

The Army started the war with a tonnage of about 2.1 million tons,⁽²³⁾ of which about 1.75 million tons was used for the southern operation as of 25 November. The breakdown was: about 1.5 million tons in troopships, about 150,000 tons in military supply ships, and about 100,000 tons in special purpose ships. Out of the troopships, about 1.45 million tons was in use and about 50,000 tons was held in reserve.⁽²³⁾

Around the time of the Cam Ranh Agreement, the main shipping related to the southern operation was as follows:⁽²³⁾ Transportation of the main force of the Fourteenth Army to the Philippines was completed ([more precisely, the transport of] the 48th Division to Lingayen [was completed] on 22 December, and that of the 16th Division to Lamon Bay on 24 December), and the first and the second landing of the Malaya advance corps (consisting of the main force of the 5th Division, etc.) had [also] been completed ([respectively] on 8 December and on 16 December).^(118, 119, 120, 124, 125)

Units on Board [and in Transit Around the Time of the Cam Ranh Agreement]

Main force of the 33d Division and an element of the unit under the direct control of the Fifteenth Army (about 70,000 tons [in total]): After departing from eastern China, [the unit] left Magong on 31 December and arrived in Bangkok on 10 January.

Three battalions of the 5th Division and the first unit of the unit under the direct control of Twenty-fifth Army (about 330,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] left Magong on 31 December and arrived in Singora on 8 January.

Main force of the 18th Division and part of the unit under the direct control of the Twenty-fifth Army (about 170,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was supposed to land in Endau and Mersing, and left the area of Guangdong on 7 January and arrived in Cam Ranh on 10 January.

Second unit under the control of the Twenty-fifth Army (210,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was supposed to head for Malaya from China, [but] that seems to have been changed.

65th Brigade (50,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was heading for the Philippines from Taiwan, leaving Gaoxiong on 30 December. It arrived in Lingayen on 1 January.

Sakaguchi Detachment (46,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was using the ships for operations in Davao and Jolo.

Note: The tonnage was as specified in the Central Agreement. The same applies hereinafter.

Units in the Middle of Embarking and Those About to Embark Shortly

An element of the Imperial Guard Division and others (170,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was supposed to head for Malaya from French Indochina and Thailand.

Main force of the 21st Division (about 100,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was supposed to head for French Indochina from northern China. (Its transportation was postponed, and [consequently] it left Qingdao on 20 January and arrived in Haiphong on 3 February.)

Main force of the 56th Division (about 100,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] was supposed to head for Malaya from Kyūshū.

The Twenty-fifth Army had arranged with the [Navy] Malaya Unit on 18 November to "land near Endau and Mersing around 6 February." (This was also postponed. [The unit eventually] started assembling in Moji on 11 February and left Moji on the 16th to be transported to Burma.)

2d Division (160,000 tons [in total]): [The division] was heading for Taiwan from the mainland (and later for Java [as its destination]).

Fifth Air Force (100,000 tons [in total]): As the Philippines operations were almost over, [the group] was heading for Thailand.

Units Embarking in the Beginning or Middle of January

Half of the 33d Division (70,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] will head for Thailand from eastern China.

Part of the 21st Division (50,000 tons [in total]): [The unit] will head for French Indochina from northern China.

Third unit of the unit under the direct control of the Twenty-fifth Army (110,000 tons): [The unit] will head for Malaya from southern China.

Units Embarking in Late January

38th Division (190,000 tons [in total]): [The division] will head for the Dutch East Indies from Hong Kong.

Units Embarking from Mid-February Onward

Units for capturing Java consisting of the 2d and the 48th Division as its core (830,000 tons [in total]): [The units] will head for Java from Taiwan, French Indochina and the Philippines.

As described previously, in order to meet the advanced schedule of the Java operation, the Saigon command post (attached to the Southern Army) of the Shipping Transport Command allotted the ships it managed to make available for transporting the units for the Java operation by such arrangements as putting off the transportation of the 21st, the 33d, and the 56th Divisions and the units under the direct control of the Twenty-fifth and the Fifteenth Armies, or by transporting them in smaller units at a time over a longer period.⁽²⁷⁾ Fortunately, the damage and loss of ships since the opening of hostilities was smaller than expected. According to a report of the Shipping Transport Command, the damage and loss for fifty-five days from 4 December to 27 January was as follows:⁽²³⁾

Sunk:	20 ships (115,000 tons [in total])
Too damaged to be used:	8 ships (48,000 tons [in total])
In total:	28 ships (163,000 tons [in total])

The shipping situation at the time of the Cam Ranh Agreement was as described above. Later, on 15 January, ships to be used by the Sixteenth Army for the operations against Java (excluding ships for the Sakaguchi and the Eastern Detachment) were determined as follows:⁽²⁴⁾

Transport ships

First transport: 220,000 tons for the main force of the army, 210,000 tons for the 48th Division, and 130,000 tons for the 38th Division, making a total of 560,000 tons.

Second transport: 150,000 tons

Third transport: 100,000 tons

In total: 810,000 tons

Ten extra-large [motorized landing] craft, 170 large-sized motorized [landing craft], 170 small-sized motorized [landing] craft, 5 armored craft, 5 Type-A high-speed craft, 6 Type-B high-speed craft, 80 boats with Yanmar engines, and 20 small lighters.

3. The Orders from [the Army Department of] Imperial General Headquarters

The 38th Division captured Hong Kong on 25 December and made a triumphal entry into the city on the 28th.⁽⁵³⁾ The 48th Division, which had landed at Lingayen Gulf on 22 December, occupied Manila on 2 January in concert with the 16th Division, which had landed at Lamon Bay on 24 December.⁽⁵³⁾ The Twenty-fifth Army kept on advancing southward, setting itself the goal to complete the capture of Singapore by 11 February (Empire Day).⁽⁵³⁾

As previously described, on 4 January, Chief of the Army General Staff Sugiyama presented a report about advancing [the schedule of] the Java operation to the Emperor.⁽²⁾ [Accordingly, the Army Department of] IGHQ issued the following orders to transfer units for the Dutch East Indies operation:⁽¹⁾

IGHQ Army Department Order No. 585 of 4 January⁽¹⁾

Units to be transferred from the order of battle of the Twenty-third Army in southern China to the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army as of 1200 on 4 January:

38th Division

2d Independent Antitank Gun Battalion (under the supervision of the 3d Division)

5th Independent Antitank Gun Battalion (under the supervision of the 16th Division)

One element of the 14th Telegraph Regiment (under the supervision of Southern China Area Army)

5th Field Gas Company B (under the supervision of the 2d Division)

18th Field Gas Company B (under the supervision of the 7th Division)

17th Water Supply and Purification Department (under the supervision of the 1st Division)

Note 1: "Supervision" means that, for example, when "under the supervision of the 3d Division," the mobilization or formation of this unit was supervised by the 3d Division.

Note 2: On this day, by IGHQ Army Department Order No. 584, [the Army Department of] IGHQ transmitted to the South Seas Detachment (in Guam) an order "to capture Rabaul as quickly as possible after about mid-January in cooperation with the Navy."⁽¹⁾

IGHQ Army Department Order No. 588 of 14 January⁽¹⁾

The 48th Division shall be removed from the order of battle of the Fourteenth Army to be incorporated into that of the Sixteenth Army. The transfer of command [to the Sixteenth Army] shall take effect when it departs from a port in Luzon. However, the commander of the Sixteenth Army is allowed to give commands concerning preparations for operations prior to this [transfer].

On 29 January, the Twenty-fifth Army was pressing on Johor Bahru.⁽²³⁾ The implementation of the Java operation was finally taking concrete shape. However, as previously described, the Southern Army's request for an additional allotment of 150,000 tons of shipping was refused and the tonnage would not be enough however hard it tried to juggle the ships.^(23, 24) [As a result, the Army Department of] IGHQ decided to cancel the transfer of the units which on 6 November had been ordered to join the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army but which might not be able to make it from Manchuria in time. Instead, in order to reinforce the Sixteenth Army, it decided to divert some units of the Fourteenth Army and the Southern Army, etc. in the Philippines and other areas to the Sixteenth Army, and issued the following order:⁽¹⁾

IGHQ Army Department Order No. 594 of 29 January

The following units shall be removed from the order of battle of the Southern Army, the Fourteenth, and the Twenty-fifth Armies to be incorporated into that of the Sixteenth Army. The transfer of command [to the Sixteenth Army] shall take effect when the unit leaves port at its current location for the Dutch East Indies operation.

1. Units to be diverted from the order of battle of the Southern Army to that of the Sixteenth Army
23d Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment (minus the Antiaircraft Searchlight Company): (Twenty-first Army)
138th Railway Depot headquarters (B): (Home unit, 5th Division)
2. Units to be diverted from the order of battle of the Fourteenth Army to that of the Sixteenth Army

- 8th Independent Antitank Gun Company: (16th Division)
 - 10th Independent Antitank Gun Company: (Home unit, 4th Division)
 - 4th Tank Regiment: (Fifth Army)
 - 45th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (B): (Home unit, 6th Division)
 - 48th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (B): (20th Division)
 - 30th and 31st Independent Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battery: (Home unit, 3d Division)
 - 3d Independent Engineer Regiment (A), (horse-carried): (2d Division)
 - One battalion of the 6th Railway Regiment and one element of its Material Depot (Northern China Area Army)
 - 5th Independent Radio Platoon (motorized): (China Expeditionary Army)
 - 51st and 52d Independent Radio Platoon (motorized): (Home unit, 5th Division)
 - 40th Fixed Radio Unit: (Home unit, 5th Division)
 - 26th Bridge Building Material Company: (Home unit, 3d Division)
 - 13th River-crossing Material Company: (Home unit, 51st Division)
 - 14th River-crossing Material Company: (53d Division)
 - 209th Independent Motor Transport Company: (Home unit, Imperial Guard Division)
 - 258th and 259th Independent Motor Transport Company: (Home unit, 4th Division)
 - 38th Patient Transport Platoon: (2d Division)
 - 8th Water Supply and Purification Department: (1st Division)
 - 3. Units to be diverted from the order of battle of the Twenty-fifth Army to that of the Sixteenth Army
 - 2d Tank Regiment (minus one light tank squadron): (Home unit, Imperial Guard Division)
 - 34th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (B) (Home unit, Imperial Guard Division)
 - 35th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (minus an element) (B): (Home unit, Imperial Guard Division)
 - 28th Motor Transport Regiment: (Home unit, 51st Division)
 - 45th Independent Motor Transport Battalion: (Home unit, 3d Division)
 - 212th Independent Motor Transport Company: (Home unit, Imperial Guard Division)
 - 307th and 308th Independent Motor Transport Company: (Taiwan Army)
 - 4. Unit to be diverted from the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army to [that of] the Kwantung Army
 - 8th Tank Regiment: (Eastern District Army)
 - 5. Units to be diverted from the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army to [that of] the Fifth Army in Manchuria
 - 42d Field Road Unit: (56th Division)
 - 44th Field Road Unit: (Home unit, 57th Division)
 - 6. Unit to be diverted from the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army to [that of] the Twentieth Army in Manchuria
 - 16th Field Well-drilling Company: (52d Division)
- Note: The [organization] in parentheses above is the unit that supervised the mobilization or formation of the units.

After a course of events, which will be described later, the convoy of the main force of the Sixteenth Army would leave Cam Ranh Bay for Java on 18 February. Just before that day, on the 16th, [the Army Department of] IGHQ issued the following order increasing units:⁽¹⁾

IGHQ Army Department Order No. 600 of 16 February

The following [unit] shall be incorporated into the order of battle of the Sixteenth Army as of its departure from a port in the mainland:

5th Fixed Radio Unit: (under the supervision of the Northern District Army)

[Consequently,] just before landing on Java, the main units of the Sixteenth Army were the following:

2d Division
38th Division
48th Division
56th Mixed Infantry Group
4th Tank Regiment and 2d Tank Regiment (minus [one] light tank squadron)
17th Field Heavy Artillery Regiment (A)
2d and 5th Independent Antitank Gun Battalion, and the 8th and the 10th Independent Antitank Gun Company
16th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment and 23d Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment (minus the Antiaircraft Searchlight Company); 44th, 45th and 34th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (B), 35th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (B) (minus an element); 30th and 31st Independent Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battery
(Engineer units and others are omitted. The details are as shown in the appended table.)

4. The Southern Army's Operational Direction

The Orders to Prepare for the Capture of Java and the Aviation Plan

From the start of its research on the southern operation in the summer of 1940 until the decision to open hostilities, the Southern Army had consistently thought that the operations heading for Java via the east of Borneo would make faster progress than those heading for Java via Malaya. However, the reality was that after the opening of hostilities, with two British battleships sunk and the Twenty-fifth Army starting to charge [southward] at a good speed in Malaya, the capture of Davao was, as previously described, six days behind schedule in the eastern area. [Consequently,] the Southern Army gave the following order to the Twenty-fifth Army as early as 23 December:⁽²³⁾

Southern Army Order

Saigon, 23 December

1. The overall operations of the Southern Army are progressing as scheduled.
2. In conjunction with the Navy, I intend to swiftly capture Singapore.
3. The commander of the Twenty-fifth Army shall promptly seize Singapore in the following manner:
 - a) He shall expand the military gains attained so far, and swiftly capture Singapore from the direction of the west coast of Malaya.
 - b) By and large by day $x + 23$, he shall raid and secure the enemy airfield near Kuantan with a part [of the army]. Furthermore, he shall have a corps land in or near Endau or Mersing at a favorable opportunity to facilitate the operations of the main force of the army. The cooperation with the Navy for the above operations will be based on General Agreement No. 3.

Around the time of passing down the above order, the Southern Army expected that the operations in Malaya would progress faster than those in the east of Borneo theater. It planned to sharply accelerate the operations in Malaya and in western Borneo, and by [speeding up and] synchronizing the operations in the east of Borneo theater with those in west, carry out the landing operations in both eastern and in western Java simultaneously at an early date.

On 28 December, the Southern Army ordered the Kawaguchi Detachment to prepare for capturing Ledo.⁽²³⁾

On 3 January, Lieutenant General Imamura, commander of the Sixteenth Army, arrived in Saigon with his chief of staff, Okazaki, and other personnel of the command post [of the army].⁽³²⁾ The next day, the 4th, the Southern Army showed the Sixteenth Army what it intended to do, explained General Agreement No. 4 signed on 1 January, and gave its views on the operations of the Navy, its plan of how to use the [transport] ships, its operation schedule and their relation to the air operations, etc.⁽²⁴⁾ Army Commander Imamura firmly stated that he "fully agreed to bringing forward the Java operation."⁽²⁴⁾

Although, as previously described, the Kuantan landing operation ordered by the Southern Army order of 23 December had been called off on the 27th,⁽²³⁾ the Takumi Detachment seized [the town of] Kuantan on the 31st and the Kuantan airfield on 3 January, and from the 4th onwards it put its all into making the airfield ready for use.^(23, 53)

Now the problem to be immediately addressed in the western theater was the capture of Ledo. As for the Endau and Mersing landing operations ordered by the Southern Army order of 23 December, the departure [of the units in charge] from Cam Ranh Bay was scheduled for day $x + 36$ (13 January), and the main force of the 18th Division was preparing for boarding in Humen, southern China. (It left Humen on 7 January and arrived in Cam Ranh on 10 January.⁽⁵³⁾)

On 5 January, the Southern Army ordered the Sixteenth Army to prepare for capturing Java and the next day, the 6th, it ordered the Kawaguchi Detachment to capture the airfield in Ledo.⁽²³⁾ The reason why these orders were issued in reverse order was that the preparations of the Kawaguchi Detachment for capturing Ledo were delayed,⁽²³⁾ as will later be described in detail. The order given to the Sixteenth Army was as follows:⁽²³⁾

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 32

Southern Army Order

Saigon, 5 January

1. The overall operations of the Southern Army are progressing as scheduled.
2. In conjunction with the Navy, I intend to swiftly prepare for capturing Java. The cooperation with the Navy shall be based on General Agreements No. 2 and No. 4.
3. The commander of the Sixteenth Army shall prepare for capturing Java in the following manner:
 - a. By and large around day $x + 60$, he shall secure key resource areas in Bangka Island and southern Sumatra with part [of the army], and promptly make air bases [there] ready for use.
 - b. He shall seize Ambon and Kupang as quickly as possible. When the major part of the operation in Ambon is achieved, he shall turn over the guarding [of the place] to the Navy.
4. The Third Air Force shall closely cooperate in the Sixteenth Army's operation against Bangka Island and southern Sumatra, while continuing its previous mission. It shall destroy the air power of the enemy in Sumatra in a timely manner.
5. The captain general of the Shipping Transport Command shall closely cooperate in the operations conducted by the commanders of the Sixteenth Army and the Third Air Force.
6. I will [command from] Saigon.

Count Terauchi Hisaichi, commander in chief of the Southern Army

The order given to the Kawaguchi Detachment [by the Southern Army] on the 6th was as follows:⁽²³⁾

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 34

Southern Army Order

Saigon, 6 January

Detachment Commander Kawaguchi shall promptly seize, mainly by land, the airfields near Bengkayang and the ports in Dutch Borneo, which lead to these [airfields].

From the start, the Southern Army had the idea to divert the Fifth Air Force, assigned to the Fourteenth Army, to the operations in Thailand [and neighboring areas] when the Philippines operations were for the most part over and assign it mainly to the Burma operation. Now, as Manila was completely occupied on 2 January and the [Army Department of] IGHQ had recently revealed its concept for the Burma operations, the Southern Army issued an order on 8 January to put the Fifth Air Force under the direct control of the army mainly to conduct air operations in Burma in direct cooperation with the operations of the Fifteenth Army, but also to cooperate with the Third Air Force with heavy bomber units when required at the time of the attack on Singapore.⁽²³⁾ On 10 January, the Southern Army drew up a supplementary plan for its air operations, including a concretization of the preparations for the Java operation.⁽²⁾ The following is an excerpt from this plan of items concerning the Java operation:

Supplement to the Southern Army's Air Operation Plan

Southern Army Staff, Section 4, 10 January

I. Mission

1. In quick response to the rapid progress in the overall operations, the air units of the Southern Army, in conjunction with the Navy air units, shall extend the military gains achieved since the opening of hostilities, fiercely pursue and destroy the British and Dutch air forces so as not to give them opportunities for reinforcement, and closely cooperate with operations of each army.
3. For the frequent and rapid advancement of bases and the continuous air operations we expect the lines of communication to be beyond reproach.

II. Outline of Operations

5. For the period of capturing Singapore and destroying the enemy air power in Sumatra (from around 1 January to around 5 February)
 - (1) The Third Air Force shall have its main force attack key military facilities of the enemy near Singapore, while at the same time destroying the enemy air power in Malaya and northern Sumatra, and with an element of its force directly cooperate in the operations of the Twenty-fifth Army. It shall anticipate the possibility that it may temporarily have to cooperate with its full force in the Twenty-fifth Army's attack on Singapore.
 - (4) The Navy air unit is supposed to promptly advance its main force to the bases in western Borneo near Kuching or Ledo and an element of its force to northern Malaya and strive to destroy the enemy warships near Singapore and the enemy air power in Singapore, eastern Sumatra and Java. The details shall be arranged separately.
6. For the period of capturing Sumatra and Java (from around 1 February to around 25 February)
 - (1) The Third Air Force shall promptly destroy the enemy air power in Sumatra and cooperate with an element of the Sixteenth Army in its attack on Bangka and Palembang.

When air bases on Bangka Island and in southern Sumatra become ready for use, it shall, without missing any opportunity, move forward as much strength as possible to swiftly destroy the enemy air power in western Java. At the same time it shall closely and directly cooperate in the landing operation of the main force of the Sixteenth Army. It shall cooperate in subsequent operations [as well] while advancing its bases into Java one after another.

- (3) (a) The Navy air unit shall still have its main force in western Borneo and an element of it in northern Malaya and is supposed to try to destroy the enemy warships and air power in western Sumatra and Java.
 - (b) Concerning the air operations in the operation for capturing southern Sumatra, arrangements shall be directly made between the Sixteenth Army, the First Southern Expeditionary Fleet (note by the author: the Southern Expeditionary Fleet was renamed the First Southern Expeditionary Fleet on 3 January), and the Third Air Force.
 - (c) The Eleventh Air Fleet is supposed to advance its bases into Celebes and southern Borneo to try to destroy the enemy warships and air power in eastern Java and [also] cooperate in the landing operations of part of the Sixteenth Army in eastern Java.
 - (d) The arrangements for the air operation to support the Sixteenth Army's operation in western Java shall be directly made between the Third Air Force and the 22d Air Flotilla, those in the landing operations in eastern Java shall be directly made between the Sixteenth Army and the Eleventh Air Fleet.
7. For the period of the northern Burma operations (about 25 February onwards)
- (1) The Third Air Force shall cooperate with the army in securing stability in Sumatra and Java with an element of its force for each area, and also cooperate with an element or the main force of its fighter plane and heavy bomber units in the Fifth Air Force's operations when required. At the same time, it shall prepare for subsequent operations.
9. From March onwards we shall carry out the operations while preparing for sudden changes in [the state of affairs in] the north at any time and [also] gradually change our position so that it will be easier to secure a long-lasting stability of the key areas in the South as well as to carry out air operations in Burma.
- III. Disposition of forces to be employed and summary of the operations
10. For the period of capturing Singapore and destroying the enemy air power in Sumatra
- (1) In order to destroy the enemy air power in and around Singapore, airfields in Ipoh and Kuantan shall be ready for use by around 10 January.
 - (2) When required, two heavy bomber air groups of the Fifth Air Force shall be diverted to cooperate in the attack on key places in Singapore.
 - (3) When required, the Third Air Force shall cooperate with its full strength in the Twenty-fifth Army's crossing of the Johor Strait.
 - (4) In consideration of the next operations, transport units and Type-1 fighter plane units shall at the right moments be scheduled for maintenance in order to keep up military strength.
 - (5) Just after the capture of Singapore, the following transfer shall be arranged:
 - a. The 73d Independent Squadron and one-third of the 84th Airfield Battalion of the Twenty-fifth Army shall prepare to be transferred to the Sixteenth Army.
 - b. (Omitted by the author.)
 - (6) The preparation of Kluang and Kahang airfields for the southern Sumatra operation shall be completed by around 31 January.
 - (7) The transfer of the main force of the Fifth Air Force from the Philippines to Thailand shall be completed by and large by 25 January.
11. For the period of capturing Sumatra and Java

- (1) Main points of cooperation with part of the Sixteenth Army in capturing southern Sumatra
 - (a) By 31 January the deployment of fighter plane units in Kluang, Kahang and Batu Pahat, light bomber air groups in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur, and heavy bomber air groups in Ketil, Alor Setar and Ayer Tawar shall be completed.
 - (b) Force to be employed: 9 command reconnaissance planes, 40 Type-1 fighter planes, 30 Type-97 planes, 9 assault planes, 20 twin-engine light bombers, and 30 heavy bombers.
 - (c) The units mentioned in the previous item, except for the heavy bomber unit, shall be pushed forward when airfields in southern Sumatra are ready for use.
 - (d) Air ground support units that have landed in Sumatra under the command of the Sixteenth Army shall be transferred to the Third Air Force when they have completed the preparation of the airfields.
 - (e) Detailed arrangements with the Navy shall be made between the Sixteenth Army, the First Southern Expeditionary Fleet, and the Third Air Force.
- (2) Main points of cooperation with the main force of the Sixteenth Army in capturing Java
 - (a) Mentok, Palembang and Tanjungkarang, which are to be used as bases, shall be promptly seized and made ready for use.
 - (b) Forces to be employed: same as mentioned in the previous item.
 - (c) As soon as air bases on Java are ready for use, air units shall advance their bases one after another. At that time, air ground support units under the command of the Sixteenth Army shall be transferred to the Third Air Force.
 - (d) For this period, the 73d Independent Squadron and one-third of the 84th Airfield Battalion of the Twenty-fifth Army shall be transferred to the Sixteenth Army.
 - (e) The arrangements for the air operations in western Java shall be directly made by the end of January between the Third Air Force and the [Navy] 22d Air Flotilla.
 - (f) The Eleventh Air Fleet and the Third Fleet shall cooperate in the air cover for the landing operations in eastern Java. Arrangements in detail shall be directly made between the Sixteenth Army and the above Navy units.
 - (g) Subsequent operations to destroy the enemy air power on the Australian front shall be carried out under the responsibility of the Navy by using bases in eastern Java and the Lesser Sunda Islands.
- (3) Cooperation in the capture of northern Sumatra by an element of the Twenty-fifth Army
- (4) Main points of cooperation with the Fifteenth Army in the Burma operation (omitted by the author)
12. Main points of cooperation in air operations in the final stages of the Burma operation (omitted by the author)
13. As for the use of XX Units (note by the author: paratroop raiding units), although the main goal is to let them cooperate in the operation to capture Palembang, their exact use shall be decided depending on the situation of the enemy air [power], the timing of the arrival of the units, and the situation of our bases, etc.
14. The disposition of air units in the final phase of Operation A-Gō [southern operation] is planned as follows:
(The rest omitted by the author.)

The outline of the cooperation of the air units in the Java operation was arranged in the following way: the Army shall let the Third Air Force support the operation by advancing the force from Malaya via southern Sumatra to western Java; [it shall also] put an element of the ground support units of the Third Air Force under the command of the Sixteenth Army and have it seize airfields upon landing and make them ready for use; the Navy shall let the 22d

Air Flotilla (which shall [temporarily] be transferred from the command of the Eleventh Air Fleet to the control of the [Navy] Malaya Unit) support the operation from the west coast of Borneo with its main force and from Malaya with an element; [it shall also] let its air unit (i.e. the Eleventh Air Fleet) advance the 21st Air Flotilla southward from Davao to Celebes and the 23d Air Flotilla from Jolo to eastern Borneo, and have them support [the army's] landings in Java from [the bases in] southern Celebes and southeastern Borneo [respectively].

The 1st [Paratroop] Raiding Group (consisting of its headquarters led by Col. Kume Seiichi, the 1st [Paratroop] Raiding Regiment led by Maj. Takeda Takeo, the 2d [Paratroop] Raiding Regiment led by Maj. Kōmura Takeo, and its air unit led by Maj. Niihara Sueto), which had been given the order for provisional formation on 1 December, completed its formation on the 5th at Nyūtabaru, Miyazaki [Prefecture].⁽⁹³⁾ Then, on the 8th, it received an instruction issued by the chief of the Army General Staff of the Army Department of IGHQ, which read, "[the group] shall successively proceed to the South and place itself under the command of the commander in chief of the Southern Army,"⁽¹⁾ and, on the 19th, first of all the 1st Regiment left Moji on the *Meikō-maru*.⁽⁹³⁾ On 1 January, Lt. Col. Kinoshita Hideaki, attached to the Group, reported to the headquarters of the Southern Army and informed them that "the [Paratroop] Raiding Group consists of an air unit of three squadrons and two regiments of ground troops, making a total of 1,500 men. It is going to assemble either in Saigon or Phnom Penh. Assembling is expected to be complete in mid-January."⁽²³⁾ However, an unexpected accident happened just after this. The *Meikō-maru*, which transported the 1st [Paratroop] Raiding Regiment sank on 3 January at 15°15' north 112°55' east due to a spontaneous combustion of incendiary bombs.⁽²³⁾ Although it was fortunate that all the officers and men were rescued by the escorting destroyers, because they had foreseen [the explosion] just before it happened and jumped into the sea, they suffered an outbreak of paratyphoid fever, which dealt them a mental as well as physical blow.⁽²³⁾ Group Commander Kume, after arranging a hasty dispatch of the 2d [Paratroop] Raiding Regiment, left Takanabe ahead by air on 8 January, put himself under the command of the Southern Army on the same day, and went ahead to Phnom Penh.⁽²³⁾

Shipping Operations

As soon as it was decided to bring the Java operation forward, Lt. Gen. Saeki Bunrō, captain general of Shipping Transport Command, drew up a plan that (1) the transport of troops of units unrelated to the Java operation should generally be postponed by ten to twenty days, (2) the allotment of ships for units scheduled to be transported after January should be completely changed, and (3) ships scheduled to be in dock [for repair] but which were still usable should be assigned for short-distance transport, and their docking should be postponed for the present. He generally decided to operate the ships in the previously described way, but worked it out as follows:⁽²⁷⁾

Operations related to the Eastern Detachment (Detachment B)

An element of the 5th Anchorage headquarters and one half platoon of the 104th Sea Duty Company were moved from Cam Ranh Bay to Hong Kong, and put under the command of the Eastern Detachment Commander on 5 January in Hong Kong. In addition, one company of the 14th

Independent Engineer Regiment was put under the command of the Eastern Detachment Commander on 5 January in Hong Kong.

Five transport ships, 40,000 tons in total, were allotted to the Eastern Detachment: the *Miike-maru*, the *Zen'yō-maru*, the *Ryōyō-maru*, the *Yamaura-maru*, and the *Africa-maru*. They were scheduled to leave Hong Kong around 12 January and assemble in Davao around 20 January.



Captain General of the Shipping Transport Command
Lt. Gen. Saeki Bunrō

Operations related to the main force of the 38th Division

The main force of the 5th Anchorage headquarters, the headquarters and one company of the 14th Independent Engineer Regiment, one company of the 26th Independent Engineer Regiment, and one and a half platoon of the 104th Sea Duty Company were put on standby in Cam Ranh until the arrival of the main force of the 38th Division (from Hong Kong), and were put under the command of the commander of the 38th Division in Cam Ranh on 20 January. The 65th Construction Duty Company was moved from the mainland to Hong Kong, and put under the command of the commander of the 38th Division in Hong Kong on 12 January.

Eighteen transport ships, 120,000 tons in total, were allotted to the main force of the 38th Division: the *An'yō-maru*, the *Tajima-maru*, the *Oyō-maru*, the *Tacoma-maru*, the *Mansei-maru*, the *Alaska-maru*, the *Shinkyō-maru*, the *Gin'yō-maru*, the *Rakuyō-maru*, the *Makassar-maru*, the *Shinsei-maru No. 1*, the *Toyofuku-maru* [*Hōfuku-maru*], the *Argun-maru*, the *Lima-maru*, the *Buyō-maru*, the *Boston-maru*, the *Meigen-maru*, and the *Singapore-maru*. The force was scheduled to board in Hong Kong on 18 January, complete assembling in Cam Ranh Bay on 24 January and finish changing ships by 31 January.

The Shōji Detachment (two battalions of the 38th Division as its core, [scheduled for] Java)

Six transport ships, 40,000 tons in total, were allotted to the detachment: the *Taigen-maru No. 3*, the *Naples-maru*, the *Calcutta-maru*, the *Suwa-maru*, the *Kōzan-maru*, and the *Glasgow-maru*. The detachment was scheduled to board in Hong Kong, leave [there] on 30 January, and assemble in Cam Ranh Bay.

The main force of the Sixteenth Army (the 2d Division as its core)

The 40th Anchorage headquarters, the 120th Shore Duty Company and the 67th Construction Company embarked from the mainland on 10 January and were seconded to the Sixteenth Army commander in Gaoxiong. The main force of the 6th Independent Engineer Regiment, two platoons of the 10th Independent Engineer Regiment, and the 59th Sea Duty Company were moved to Gaoxiong, and seconded to the Sixteenth Army commander in Gaoxiong on 27 January.

Forty [editor's note: only 39 are mentioned in the text] transport ships, 220,000 tons in total, were allotted to the force, and after the boarding at Ujina and other ports in the mainland, they were scheduled to sail successively to Gaoxiong under the direct escort of the 9th Cruiser Division to assemble there. (Five ships were boarded and left on 15 January, six ships on the 16th, twenty-one ships on the 18th and the 19th, and, other than these, seven other ships were boarded and left from [other] ports on the mainland. Apart from these, one other ship joined in Gaoxiong by 4 February.) Most of the ships were scheduled to finish assembling by 25 January and then start the changing of ships and other [preparations].

The [allotted] transport ships were: the *Aden-maru*, the *Biyō-maru*, the *Tsurushima-maru*, the *Tōhō-maru* [A], the *Dainichi-maru*, the *Brazil-maru*, the *Tōfuku-maru*, the *Taihei-maru*, the *Akagisan-maru*, the *Hōeisan-maru*, the *Taiiei-maru*, the *Shinshū-maru*, the *Colombia-maru*, the *Pacific-maru*, the *Heian-maru*, the *Tōsei-maru*, the *Zuishō-maru*, the *Taizan-maru*, the *Haridono-maru* [*Somedono-*

maru?] the *Fushimi-maru*, the *Erii-maru*, the *Uchide-maru*, the *Nichiwa-maru*, the *Suwa-maru*, the *Shinanogawa-maru*, the *Genoa-maru*, the *Toyooka-maru*, the *Tempei-maru*, the *Maebashi-maru*, the *Taketoyo-maru*, the *Teikai-maru*, the *Tatsuno-maru*, the *Atsuta-maru*, the *Sydney-maru*, the *Kaimei-maru*, the *Toyama-maru*, the *Ryōga-maru*, the *Kōyō-maru*, and the *Reiyō-maru*. The hospital ships the *Hōrai-maru* and the *Mizuho-maru*, and the air defense ships, the *Ayato[san]-maru* and the *Ryūjō-maru* were [also] included in the convoy.

Operations related to the 48th Division

The 45th Anchorage headquarters and the 121st Shore Duty Company were moved from Osaka to Gaoxiong. They boarded the transport ships for the 48th Division at Gaoxiong on 20 January [along with the division], and were seconded to the 48th Division commander in Lingayen. The 26th Independent Engineer Regiment, the 39th Sea Duty Company and the 68th Construction Duty Company were [also] made to board the transport ships for the 48th Division at Lingayen on 30 January.

Thirty-six transport ships, 210,000 tons in total were allotted to the division: the *Yamagiku-maru*, the *Kenkon-maru*, the *Hague-maru*, the *Nankō-maru*, the *Aden-maru*, the *Kōnan-maru*, the *Johore-maru*, the *Takaoka-maru*, the *Holland-maru*, the *Hokkō-maru*, the *Kyokusei-maru*, the *Taiei-maru* [*Daiei-maru*], the *Kenzan-maru*, the *Anzan-maru*, the *Himalaya-maru*, the *Havre-maru*, the *Arizona-maru*, the *Chōkō-maru*, the *Nisshū-maru* [*Nichihide-maru*], the *Biyō-maru*, the *Italy-maru*, the *Asaka-maru*, the *Kashū-maru*, the *Yoneyama-maru*, the *Hakuroku-maru* [*Hakushika-maru*], the *Teiyō-maru*, the *Hamburg-maru*, the *Denmark-maru*, the *Arabia-maru*, the *Tokushima-maru*, the *Miyadono-maru*, the *Jinsan-maru* [*Jinzan-maru*], the *Wales-maru*, the *Suez-maru*, the *Tamon-maru*, and the *Yasukawa-maru*. Apart from these, the *Satsuma-maru*, the *Minryō-maru* and the *Hozugawa-maru* were also assigned. Most of these ships were made to assemble by 31 January, and four ships by 4 February in Lingayen. Other than these, the faster ships, the *Sasako-maru* and the *Sagami-maru*, were made to leave Saigon on 31 January to arrive at Lingayen Gulf on 5 February. (The background of this will be described later.)

The transport convoys were assigned the following armed protection:⁽²⁷⁾

[The convoy of] the 38th Division (including the Eastern Detachment and the Shōji Detachment) Three air defense ships were included, which mounted twenty-one antiaircraft guns, seven field guns and some antiaircraft machine guns. Since the number of transport ships for the 38th Division was twenty-nine ships in total, this meant one gun per transport ship on average.

[The convoy of] the 48th Division

To the total of thirty-six transport ships two air defense ships were added, which mounted twenty-four antiaircraft guns, thirty field guns and twenty-two machine guns, which meant two guns per transport ship on average.

[The convoy of] the main force of the Sixteenth Army

Forty transport ships were joined by two air defense ships, the *Ayatosan-maru* and the *Ryūjō-maru*, which mounted forty-four antiaircraft guns, twenty-four field guns and twenty machine guns, which meant two guns per transport ship on average.

The reason why the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command arranged the shipping transport in the above-mentioned way was that he had received the following order from the commander in chief of the Southern Army on 30 December:⁽²³⁾

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 24

Southern Army Order

Saigon, 30 December

1. I intend to prepare for Operation H (note by the author: this indicates the Dutch East Indies operation in a broad sense and the Java operation in a narrow sense).
2. The captain general of the Shipping Transport Command shall conduct the preparatory transportation of the Sixteenth Army for Operation H. From now on, the 1st and the 2d Debarkation Group commanders shall be seconded to him in regard to the operation of ships allotted to the Southern Army and the shipping in preparation of Operation H.
3. The following units shall be put under the command of the Sixteenth Army commander:
 - 1st Debarkation Group headquarters ([from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 6th Independent Engineer Regiment (minus one company (minus two platoons)) ([from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 28th Independent Engineer Regiment ([from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 10th Independent Engineer Regiment (minus two companies (minus one platoon)) ([from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 14th Independent Engineer Regiment headquarters and one company ([from] the Twenty-fifth Army)
 - One company of the 26th Independent Engineer Regiment ([from] the Twenty-fifth Army)
 - Main force of the 5th Anchorage headquarters ([from] the Shipping Transport Command)
 - 39th Sea Duty Company ([from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 59th Sea Duty Company ([from] the Twenty-fifth Army)
 - 104th Sea Duty Company (minus one platoon) ([from] the Shipping Transport Command)
 - 68th Construction Duty Company

The commanders of the Fourteenth and the Twenty-fifth Armies and the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command shall put the units which are listed above and which are under their command under the command of the Sixteenth Army commander. The transfer of command will start at 0000 on 10 January for the units to be transferred from the Fourteenth Army and at 0000 on 3 January for the units to be transferred from the Twenty-fifth Army and the Shipping Transport Command.
4. (Omitted by the author)
5. The commanders of the Fourteenth and the Twenty-fifth Armies shall put the following units under the command of the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command:
 - Main force of the 1st On-board Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment ([from] the Twenty-fifth Army)
 - 2d On-board Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment (Its main force [from] the Twenty-fifth Army; an element [from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 1st Ship Repair Depot ([from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - 2d Ship Repair Depot ([from] the Twenty-fifth Army)
 - Shipping Signal Regiment (Its main force [from] the Twenty-fifth Army; an element [from] the Fourteenth Army)
 - Vessel Launching Unit ([from] the Twenty-fifth Army)

Transfer of command will start at 0000 on 10 January.

(The rest omitted by the author.)

Based on this order from the Southern Army, the captain general of the Shipping Transport Command, Lt. Gen. Saeki Bunrō, issued on 1 January the following order and took the following measures:⁽²³⁾

Order

1 January

1. The Southern Army is preparing for Operation H. For that purpose, the units listed in Separate Volume No. 1 shall be newly put under the command of the Sixteenth Army commander and the units listed in Separate Volume No. 2 shall come back under my command. Further, from now on the 1st and the 2d Disembarkation Group commanders shall be seconded to me in regard to the operation of ships allotted to the Southern Army and the shipping in preparation of Operation H.
2. I intend to arrange the shipping for Operation H.
3. The 1st Disembarkation Group commander [Maj. Gen. Itō Shinobu] shall handle the ship units (including boats, matériel, fuel; the same applies hereinafter.) to be newly put under the command of the Sixteenth Army commander based on Separate Volume No. 3 and prepare the shipping for Operation H.
4. The 2d Disembarkation Group commander [Maj. Gen. Tanabe Suketomo] shall closely cooperate with the 1st Disembarkation Group commander in regard to the transfer of the ship units listed in Separate Volume No. 3 that shall be removed from the command of the Twenty-fifth Army commander and put under the command of the Sixteenth Army commander.
5. The commanders of the 1st and the 2d On-board Antiaircraft Artillery Regiments shall be located in Saigon and in Gaoxiong respectively, and mainly prepare for antiaircraft and antisubmarine self-defense related to the shipping for Operation H based on Separate Volume No. 4, while continuing their current tasks. When the operation is conducted, they are supposed to directly take part in it as shall be instructed separately.
6. The commander of the Shipping Signal Regiment shall be located in Saigon, and mainly prepare for communications related to the shipping for Operation H according to Separate Volume No. 5, while continuing his current tasks.
7. The commander of the 1st Ship Repair Depot shall still continue his current tasks in Singora. The commander of the 2d Ship Repair Depot shall visit Cam Ranh and Gaoxiong, repair broken or damaged vessels, and arrange matériel related to the shipping for Operation S (note by the author: the Endau and Mersing operation) and Operation H, while preparing for subsequent actions.
8. The commander of the Vessel Launching Unit shall conduct the move involved in the transfer of the ship units listed in item 4. After that, he shall prepare the movement of ships for Operation H.
9. Colonel Yoshimura in Ujina shall be assigned to prepare the shipping for Operation H, in particular, to make a plan and arrange the shipping of the 2d Division, the units attached to the division, and the units under the direct control of the [Sixteenth] Army that accompany the division.
10. The commander of the Southern China Shipping Unit shall prepare the shipping for Operation H in Guangdong and Hong Kong. In particular, he shall arrange the embarkation of the 38th Division.
11. The 1st Anchorage superintendent shall prepare the shipping for Operation H in Saigon and Cam Ranh. In particular, he shall facilitate the arrangements at the assembly spot of the transport ships in Cam Ranh.
12. The commander of the Gaoxiong Anchorage shall prepare the shipping for Operation H in Taiwan. In particular, he shall facilitate the arrangements at the assembly spot of the transport ships.
13. Colonel Yoshimura in Ujina, the commander of the Southern China Shipping Unit, the 1st Anchorage superintendent and the commander of the Gaoxiong Anchorage shall cooperate with each unit concerned in regard to the shipping in items 3 to 8 above.
14. I shall be in Saigon.

(Separate Volume No. 1) (Omitted by the author. Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 24-3)
(Separate Volume No. 2) (Omitted by the author. Same as above No. 24-5)

(Separate Volume No. 3)

Operation H, Ship Units Allotment Plan

Detachment B (with two battalions of the 38th Division as its core):

An element of the 5th Anchorage headquarters

One company of the 14th Independent Engineer Regiment

One half platoon of the 104th Sea Duty Company

Boats: 2 extra-large [motorized landing] craft, 20 large motorized [landing] craft, 20 small motorized [landing] craft, 1 armored craft, 1 Type-A high-speed craft, and 1 Type-B high-speed craft.

Main force of the 38th Division:

Main force of the 5th Anchorage headquarters

Headquarters and one company of the 14th Independent Engineer Regiment

One company of the 26th Independent Engineer Regiment

104th Sea Duty Company (minus one and a half platoon)

67th Construction Duty Company (from the mainland)

Boats: 8 extra-large [motorized landing] craft, 35 large motorized [landing] craft, 35 small motorized [landing] craft, 1 armored craft, 1 Type-A high-speed craft, and 1 Type-B high-speed craft, and 20 boats with Yanmar engines.

48th Division:

45th Anchorage headquarters

28th Independent Engineer Regiment

121st Shore Duty Company (from the mainland)

39th Sea Duty Company (minus one platoon)

50th Construction Duty Company

Boats: 10 extra-large [motorized landing] craft, 60 large motorized [landing] craft, 60 small motorized [landing] craft, 2 armored craft, 2 Type-A high-speed craft, and 2 Type-B high-speed craft, 30 boats with Yanmar engines, and 10 small lighters

2d Division:

40th Anchorage headquarters

Headquarters, two companies, and two platoons of the 6th Independent Engineer Regiment

Two platoons of the 10th Independent Engineer Regiment

120th Shore Duty Company

One platoon of the 39th Sea Duty Company

59th Sea Duty Company

65th Construction Duty Company

Boats: 10 extra-large [motorized landing] craft, 60 large motorized [landing] craft, 60 small motorized [landing] craft, 2 armored craft, 2 Type-A high-speed craft, and 2 Type-B high-speed craft, 30 boats with Yanmar engines, and 10 small lighters

As previously described, the sudden advancement of [the schedule of] the Java operation brought absolute chaos to the shipping operations. On the night of 31 December, Lieutenant General Saeki, captain general of the Shipping Transport Command, sent from the Saigon command post the following classified military telegram (note: classified military telegrams are sent by priority) in order to unify the transport:^(23, 27)

The situation has changed. From now on, all ships involved in the southern operation shall be operated under the orders of Saigon regardless of the original plan or the directions from Ujina.

With this telegram, [control of] the movements of the transport ships was changed and taken over by Saigon. By 2 January, it succeeded in bringing everything under the sole command of Saigon.⁽²⁷⁾

As previously described, the Southern Army issued an order to transfer the 1st Disembarkation Group to the Sixteenth Army on 30 [December], when the 1st Disembarkation Group was assembling in Gaoxiong after the Philippines operation. On 5 January, Maj. Gen. Itō Shinobu, commander of the group flew from Gaoxiong to Saigon, where he received orders from the headquarters of the Southern Army and the command post of the Shipping Transport Command, and returned to Gaoxiong. [He] came under the command of the commander of the Sixteenth Army on 10 January.⁽⁹⁴⁾



1st Disembarkation
Group Commander
Maj. Gen. Itō Shinobu

Transfer of the 38th and the 48th Divisions [to the Sixteenth Army]

As previously told, IGHQ ordered the change in the order of battle of the 38th and the 48th Divisions on 4 January and 14 January respectively. For the 38th Division, which had held a triumphal entry into Hong Kong on 28 December, and was assembling to prepare for its next operation,⁽⁵³⁾ this posed no problems. However, the 48th Division, which had seized Manila on 2 January, was [still] facing the U.S.-Filipino Army on the Bataan Peninsula and the situation in Bataan was rather precarious. At that time, the Southern Army was considering to divert the 48th Division and many other ground units to the Java operation and to divert the Fifth Air Force to the Burma operation; in fact, it had already ordered the air unit on 1 January to prepare itself.⁽²³⁾ In order to discuss the diversion of forces [with the Fourteenth Army] and arrange it to their mutual satisfaction, Commander in Chief of the Southern Army Terachi dispatched Aoki Shigemasa, vice chief of staff of the Southern Army, [to the Philippines]. Lieutenant General Aoki dropped by the headquarters of the Fourteenth Army in Cabanatuan on 4 January and went on to Manila on 5 [January], where he conferred with the chief of staff of the [Fourteenth] Army, Lt. Gen. Maeda Masami, and other officers.^(23, 53) The Fourteenth Army agreed on the whole, but made the following requests:⁽⁵³⁾

1. It would like the extraction of the Independent Engineer Regiment (A) and the Railway Regiment to be reconsidered because [many] roads and railways on Luzon Island had been destroyed.
2. The extraction of the 48th Division from the Bataan front required that the 65th Infantry Brigade (which had started landing around Lingayen on 1 January) would take its place. In addition, [the army] would like to hold a memorial service in Manila around 15 January before the diversion of troops to other theaters. Therefore, it would like the diversion to be implemented after that date.
3. It would like the heavy bomber air groups and fighter plane air groups to remain [in the Philippines].

In response to [these requests], Lieutenant General Aoki stated that leaving the Railway Regiment was reasonable, but that the 48th Division should be assembled in Lingayen in time

for boarding the ships between 1 and 7 February for the Java operation, and that leaving the air unit [in the Philippines] would be very difficult.⁽⁵³⁾ He returned to Saigon on the 8th,⁽²⁴⁾ where it was decided that the diversion of the 48th Division would be implemented as discussed with the Fourteenth Army; that, regrettably, from the railway regiment one battalion would be transferred to the Sixteenth Army, while its main force (consisting of two battalions) would be kept [in the Philippines]; that the heavy field artillery [units] which the 48th Division requested to keep under its command would not be extracted from the Fourteenth Army and that those for the Sixteenth Army would be transferred from the Twenty-fifth Army (note: the heavy field artillery [units] to be transferred from the Twenty-fifth Army were still in Manchuria), and that all of the Fifth Air Force would be diverted to the Thailand theater, etc.⁽²⁴⁾ On the same day, the Southern Army immediately issued an order to divert the Fifth Air Force,⁽²³⁾ and also issued orders to successively divert the ground units to the Sixteenth Army, as will be explained later.

The diversion of the 48th Division, which after seizing Manila was spearheading the attack on Bataan, should have been a matter of careful consideration. However, at that time, the thought of bringing forward the Java operation was dominant, and the staff officers of the IGHQ who accompanied Lieutenant General Aoki as observers also held the same view as the Southern Army. [So] on 9 January, the 48th Division was relieved on the front line by the 65th Brigade.⁽⁸⁰⁾

The Transfer of Other Units

Along with the decision to bring forward the Java operation, the Southern Army issued the following orders for the transfer of units to the Sixteenth Army:⁽²³⁾

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 24 of 30 December:⁽²³⁾

The 1st Disembarkation Group headquarters and other units related to shipping, eleven units in total (described above)

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 25 of 1 January:⁽²³⁾

One company of the 14th Independent Engineer Regiment (D)

This unit handled the shipping of the Eastern Detachment, which [the Army Department of] IGHQ had transferred from the Twenty-third Army to the Southern Army.

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 27 of 3 January:⁽²³⁾

The 23d Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment (minus the Antiaircraft Searchlight Company)

This unit was ordered to transfer from the Imperial Guard Infantry Group in Saigon to the command of the Sixteenth Army.

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 29 of 4 January:⁽²³⁾

The 50th Construction Duty Company

This unit was transferred from the Fourteenth Army to the command of the Sixteenth Army, and simultaneously the 68th Construction Duty Company, which was delayed, was put under the command of the Fourteenth Army [instead].

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 30 of 4 January:⁽²³⁾

The 2d Tank Regiment (minus [one] light tank squadron), the 45th Independent Motor Transport Battalion, and the 212th, the 307th, and the 308th Independent Motor Transport Company

These units were under the command of the Twenty-fifth Army, but still were stuck north of Taiwan due to transport delays.

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 33 of 5 January:⁽²³⁾

The 34th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (B) and the 35th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (minus one battery) (B)

These were also under the command of the Twenty-fifth Army.

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 37 of 15 January:⁽²³⁾

An element of the 25th Air Signal Unit (i.e. two radio squads), an element of the 2d Meteorological Company (two weather observation details), and the 7th and the 33d Airfield Companies

These units were transferred from the air unit of the Southern Army to the command of the Sixteenth Army in Cam Ranh, and were expected to accompany the 38th Division's units in the capture of Sumatra to repair and make the air bases ready for use.

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 38 of 15 January:⁽²³⁾

The 4th Air Ground Support headquarters, the 24th Airfield Battalion, the 28th Airfield Battalion, an element of the 1st Air Signal Regiment, the 9th Field Airfield Construction Unit, an element of the 9th Field Aircraft Repair Depot, the 298th Independent Motor Transport Company, the 123d Ground Duty Company, and the 4th Meteorological Company

These units were engaged in the Philippines operation under the orders and command of the Fifth Air Force. Aiming to transfer these units to the Sixteenth Army to have them promptly repair air bases upon seizing them, the Southern Army, already on 1 January, had ordered that "[the units] shall prepare for redeployment to take part in the Dutch East Indies operation under the command of the Sixteenth Army."⁽²³⁾

The 8th and 10th Independent Antitank Gun Companies, the 4th Tank Regiment, the 45th and the 48th Field Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions (B), the 30th and the 31st Independent Field Antiaircraft Artillery Batteries, the 3d Independent Engineer Regiment (A), one battalion of the 6th Railway Regiment and an element of the Material Depot, the 5th, the 51st, and the 52d Independent Radio Platoons (motorized), the 40th Fixed Radio Unit, the 26th Bridge Building Material Company, the 13th and the 14th River-crossing Material Companies, the 209th, the 258th, and the 259th Independent Motor Transport Companies, the 38th Patient Transport Platoon, and the 8th Water Supply and Purification Department

These units were engaged in the Philippines operations. As previously described, their transfer from the Fourteenth Army was decided upon as a result of the conference with the vice chief of staff [of the Southern Army], Aoki.

The 138th Railway Depot Headquarters (B)

This unit was expected to move from French Indochina to Gaoxiong, come under the command of the Sixteenth Army, and conduct works related to the capture of the railway [system] in Java.

Southern Army Operation Order A, No. 41 of 18 January:⁽²³⁾

The 28th Motor Transport Regiment

This unit used to be under the command of the Twenty-fifth Army and was in Gaoxiong at that time.

As previously mentioned, the transfer of the majority of the above units was later ordered by [the Army Department of] IGHQ in the form of a change in the order of battle.

The Order for Capturing Java

Due to developments that will be explained later, the capture of Tarakan and Menado was carried out on 11 January, a day behind schedule ([as specified in] the Cam Ranh Agreement, i.e. General Agreement No. 4).

After that, the Navy met with difficulties and found it increasingly impossible to keep to the schedule of the Cam Ranh Agreement. On 19 January, the Southern Army received a telegram from the Navy Southern Task Force in which it requested a delay of about ten days in the schedule. However, the Southern Army was firmly determined to carry out the operation as specified in the Cam Ranh Agreement. Knowing that the Sixteenth Army had yielded to the request of the Navy Dutch East Indies Unit and postponed the capture of Tarakan by one day (from 10 to 11 January), the scheduled date of the capture of Balikpapan by four days (from 20 to 24 January) and that of Ambon by 6 days (from 25 to 31 January, the details of which will be described later), the Southern Army was displeased about this and the next day, the 20th, it resolutely issued the following order to carry out the capture of Java.^(23, 24)

Southern Army Order

Saigon, 20 January

1. The overall operations of the Southern Army are progressing as scheduled.
2. In conjunction with the Navy, I intend to swiftly capture Java. The cooperation with the Navy shall be based on General Agreement No. 2 and No. 4.
3. The commander of the Sixteenth Army shall swiftly capture Java in the following manner:
 - (a) Exploiting the results of having gained command of the air over Java, he shall land his main force in western Java and almost simultaneously an element [of his army] in eastern Java. When conducting the landing operations, he should expect interference from the naval and air forces of the enemy.
 - (b) After the landing, he shall defeat the enemy and promptly seize Batavia, Surabaya and Bandung.
 - (c) He shall swiftly make air bases in Java ready for use.
4. The commander of the Third Air Force shall assist in the Sixteenth Army's operation in the following manner:
 - (a) As soon as the airfields on Bangka Island and southern Sumatra have been made ready for use, he shall advance there, without missing an opportunity, as much strength as possible, swiftly destroy the enemy air power in western Java, and directly and closely assist in the landing operations of the main force of the Sixteenth Army.
 - (b) As soon as the air bases in Java are ready for use, he shall swiftly advance an element of his group.
5. The captain general of the Shipping Transport Command shall closely assist in the operations conducted by the commanders of the Sixteenth Army and the Third Air Force.
6. I shall [command from] Saigon.

Count Terauchi Hisaichi, commander in chief of the Southern Army

5. The [Navy] Southern Task Force's Shift to Phase-Two Operations

The Shift to Phase-Two Operations

As previously told, the Southern Army had divided the southern operation into three stages, and set the capture of the Philippines, Malaya and British Borneo as the first stage and the capture of Java as the second stage. On the other hand, as previously mentioned, the Navy Southern Task Force had divided the southern operation into four stages, and set the period up to the completion of covering the landing of the main force of the Fourteenth Army in

the Philippines as the first stage, the period up to the completion of covering the landing of the main force of the Twenty-fifth Army in Malaya as the second stage, and the Java operation as the third stage.

As already mentioned, the Navy's shift to phase-two operations was implemented first by the Malaya Unit (the Southern Expeditionary Fleet), then by the Combined Fleet, then by the Southern Task Force (the Second Fleet), then by the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit (the Third Fleet), and then by the Air Unit (the Eleventh Air Fleet), in that order.

The Malaya Unit: On having completed the escort of the first transport of the Malaya advance corps (consisting of the main force of the 5th Division, the Takumi Detachment, etc.) and the covering of its landing (on 8 December), the covering of the landing (on 16 December) of the second transport of the Malaya advance corps (the horse trailers of the units in the first transport, etc.), the escort and the covering of the landing of the British Borneo Unit (the Kawaguchi Detachment) (in Miri on 16 December and in Kuching on the 24th, which on the 20th was rescheduled from the 21st to the 24th), and moreover on having concluded an arrangement (General Agreement No. 3) with the Southern Army on the escort for subsequent transports (such as those of the three battalions of the 5th Division, and the main force of the 18th and the 33d Divisions, etc.), the Malaya Unit issued an order to shift to second phase dispositions on the 23d and implemented it on the 24th.⁽¹¹⁸⁾ The contents of the arrangement concluded on the 23d were as follows:⁽²³⁾

1. The Koba Detachment, which would leave Cap Saint Jacques on 26 December and land in Kuantan on 31 December via Singora, would be directly escorted by an element of the 3d Destroyer Squadron.
2. The three battalions of the 5th Division, the first [transport] units under the direct control of the Twenty-fifth Army, the main force of the 33d Division, and the units under the direct control of the Fifteenth Army, which were to assemble in Magong from the mainland, Manchuria and Korea, Taiwan and China, would be directly escorted by the core unit of the 5th Destroyer Squadron, temporarily transferred from the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit. They were scheduled to leave Magong on 31 December, and land in Singora and southern French Indochina on 7 and 5 January respectively.
3. The main force of the 18th Division, which was scheduled to leave Guangdong on 7 January, arrive in Cam Ranh on the 10th, leave the bay on the 13th, and land in Endau and Mersing on the 17th, would be directly escorted by the 3d Destroyer Squadron.

The Combined Fleet: Despite the fact that the Southern Task Force was critical of bringing forward the Java operation, the Combined Fleet discussed it with the Navy General Staff, and sent a telegram on the 24th that it agreed to the idea of bringing forward the Java operation, that it was hoping in particular for an early seizure of Ambon, and that it was [also] considering letting the 2d Carrier Division take part in the operation. It transmitted a preliminary order on the next day (the 25th) that it would shift to phase-two dispositions two days ahead of schedule, and implemented the shift as of 1200 on the next day, the 26th.^(117, 119)

The commander of the Southern Task Force had departed from Cam Ranh Bay on the 20th with his main unit to provide cover for the landing of the main force of the Fourteenth Army around Lingayen Gulf (expected to start on 22 December). The landing of the Fourteenth Army went smoothly, and since on the other hand the moment to launch the Dutch East Indies operation was drawing near, he issued an order on the 23d to form and dispatch

the Eastern Support Unit (note: the Eastern Support Unit reached Magong on the same day, then headed for the waters southeast of Mindanao), while he himself returned to Cam Ranh Bay with the rest of his main unit on the 24th. There he received the order of the Combined Fleet to shift to phase-two dispositions, and on the 26th he gave orders to shift to phase-two dispositions. At the same time, he decided to have the 5th Destroyer Squadron, which had been diverted to the Malaya Unit from the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit, rejoin the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit upon completion of its escort duties from Magong to French Indochina and Malaya.^(117, 118, 119, 120) As for himself, partly due to the cancellation on the 27th of the Kuantan landing operation, he decided to leave Cam Ranh Bay after concluding agreements with the Southern Army (on and after the 29th [of December]) with his main unit on 9 January, sail to Magong for replenishments, and leave Magong on the 14th to advance to Palau. He gave his orders on 28 [December] and advanced to Palau on 18 January.^(103, 120) The phase-two operational policy of the Southern Task Force was as previously described.

The commander of the Philippines (Dutch East Indies Unit) had sallied forth from Magong on the 19th with his main unit to support the landing of the main force of the Fourteenth Army around Lingayen. As the landing seemed to go smoothly, he returned to Magong on the 23d, where, when learning that the landings in Davao on the 20th had been successful, that the Southern Task Force had issued an order to form and dispatch the Eastern Support Unit on the 23d, that the landing by the main force of the 16th Division around the Lamon Bay on the 24th had started smoothly, that the landing in Jolo on the 25th had been successful, that on the 26th, the Southern Task Force had ordered the shift to phase-two dispositions, and that on the 28th, the Southern Task Force had ordered that its main unit should change course toward Palau, he [also] ordered the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit on the 28th to shift the disposition of its forces to phase-two dispositions. [Then] on 2 January, he left Gaoxiong with his main unit, and advanced to Davao on 6 January.^(102, 103, 117)

All this had come about in the following way: First, the Southern Army had proposed the Kuantan, Endau and Mersing operations (on 12 December) and urged the [Navy] Malaya Unit to shift to phase two at an earlier date; then it proposed the advancement of [the schedule of] Java operations to [the Army Department of] IGHQ and the [Navy] Southern Task Force (19–21 December); this was supported by IGHQ and the Combined Fleet (on the 24th); the Combined Fleet urged the Southern Task Force, which then ordered the Philippines (Dutch East Indies) Unit to shift to phase-two dispositions. [At that time,] the air unit (the Eleventh Air Fleet) had not yet shifted to phase two. The chief of staff of the Combined Fleet, Rear Admiral Ugaki, considered the situation and concluded that “[at least things were] carried out as scheduled in the Central Agreement of November.”⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ On 2 January, the air unit issued an order to shift the disposition of its forces to phase-two dispositions.⁽¹¹⁷⁾ The Eleventh Air Fleet headquarters [finally] advanced from Gaoxiong to Davao on 7 January. The 23d and the 21st Air Flotilla headquarters advanced from Gaoxiong and Palau to Jolo and Davao on 3 January and 27 December respectively.^(102, 104)

The Dutch East Indies Unit’s Phase-Two Mission

On 3 January, [the Navy Department of] IGHQ organized the Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet [for operations] in the Philippines, and changed the name of the Southern Expeditionary Fleet into the First Southern Expeditionary Fleet on the same day.^(1, 101) The [Navy] Philippines

(Dutch East Indies) Unit, which started operations as the Philippines Unit at the opening of hostilities, became the Dutch East Indies (Philippines) Unit as of [the start of] phase-two dispositions on 28 December, and started preparing for the Dutch East Indies operation with its main force, while leaving behind an element for the Philippines operations. [With the establishment of the Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet], it fully became the Dutch East Indies Unit on 3 January.

On 29 December (the day when the Cam Ranh Agreement was concluded), Commander in Chief of the Third Fleet V. Adm. Takahashi Ibō issued in Magong the phase-two operation plan by means of the Dutch East Indies (Philippines) Unit Order No. 3, Classified. Its main points are in extract as follows:⁽¹¹⁰⁾

Information on the Enemy and the Situation of Friendly Forces

(1) The U.S. Pacific Fleet was almost completely destroyed at a stroke at the opening of hostilities, and for the present there is no possibility of a transoceanic attack by its main force. (2) Although the movements of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet are unknown since the opening of hostilities, it is almost certain that it has already pulled back into or south of the Celebes Sea. The movements of the British Far East Fleet are also unknown after its main force was completely destroyed. However, it is highly likely that the U.S. and British fleets in the East will join the Dutch fleet and come out in an allied defensive battle chiefly in the waters of the Dutch East Indies and Australia. (3) Although the U.S., British and Dutch submarines have incurred some losses, most of them still frequently appear everywhere, and it is expected that from now on many will be active especially in the Dutch East Indies waters. (4) Although the U.S. air units in the Philippines were almost completely destroyed, some of them have fled to the Dutch East Indies area and it seems that they are planning to counterattack along with the British and the Dutch air forces. (5) Judging from geographical features and the armaments of the Dutch forces, it is necessary to be on the alert for enemy mines in the Java Sea and the southern part of the South China Sea. (6) The air unit of the Southern Task Force has already advanced some elements into Davao and Jolo and been conducting operations against area H (note by the author: the Dutch East Indies). Their deployment is expected to be complete around 5 January. (7) The 2d Carrier Division is scheduled to be incorporated in the air unit of the Southern Task Force around 16 January. (The rest omitted by the author.)

The Plan

Based on the mission [stated in] the Philippines Unit Order No. 1, Classified, the Dutch East Indies Unit shall, in cooperation with the air unit of the Southern Task Force and the Sixteenth Army, capture Tarakan and Menado first, and one after another seize and advance into strategic points in the Makassar Strait, the Molucca Sea and the Banda Sea. At the same time, acting in concert with friendly forces [such as] the Southern Expeditionary Fleet and the Malaya invasion army, it shall push forward with the encirclement of Java to swiftly capture Java at the center.

Operational outline

1. By securing close cooperation and contact with friendly air units, we expect to sally forth while having command of the air as much as possible.
2. Against enemy submarines and mines strong direct escort forces shall be employed, and by having them closely cooperate with the base forces and the air unit, we are determined to maintain a perfect surface escort and landing cover.
3. Against the enemy surface forces, first of all sufficient forces shall be employed so that such an enemy force can be destroyed [just] by the escort forces on site. In addition to this, efforts shall

be made to catch and destroy such [an enemy surface force], in concert with the search and attack [operations] of strong support units and friendly air units.

4. As for the capture of strategic points in the Dutch East Indies, the destruction and seizure of the enemy's important air bases shall be the principal objective, and we aim to advance simultaneously in the east and the west by and large in the following order and schedule:

- (a) The areas in eastern Celebes, to the east of it, and the Banda Sea

Solely by the Navy: Manado (around 10 January) → Kendari (around 20 January) → Makassar (to be captured around 25 January – 14 February, seizing a favorable opportunity.)

Solely by the Army: Ambon (around 25 January) → Kupang (around 5 February)

- (b) The area of the Makassar Strait and eastern Java

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

Depending on the situation, in conjunction with the Army: capture of Makassar around 5 February, and also Bali almost simultaneously with the capture of Surabaya.

- (c) Western Java

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

Distribution of Forces (summarized by the author)

Main unit: the main force of the 16th Cruiser Division

Western Attack Unit:

1st Escort Unit: the main force of the 4th Destroyer Squadron as its core

2d Base Unit: the main force of the 2d Base Force as its core

1st Air Unit: the auxiliary seaplane tenders the *San'yō-maru* and the *Sanuki-maru* as its core

3d Escort Unit: the 5th Destroyer Squadron (after rejoining [the Dutch East Indies Unit])

Eastern Attack Unit:

Support Unit: the 5th Cruiser Division as its core

2d Escort Unit: the main force of the 2d Destroyer Squadron as its core

1st Base Unit: the main force of the 1st Base Force as its core

2d Air Unit: the 11th Seaplane Tender Division as its core

Eastern Philippines Unit: the 32d Special Base Force as its core

Western Philippines Unit: the 17th Minelayer Division as its core

Mission of Each Unit (summarized by the author)

The main unit shall stay on the alert in Malalag Bay (note: inside Davao Gulf); depending on the information on the enemy, it shall sail towards Celebes and the Makassar Strait. It mainly covers the Western-Attack Unit.

The 1st Escort Unit shall escort the Sakaguchi Detachment, leave Davao around 7 January, anchor at sea east of Cape Batu on Tarakan Island before daybreak on 10 January, put the detachment ashore, join the invasion and secure the air base to advance a unit of the Eleventh Air Fleet. [Then] it shall have the 2d Kure Special Landing Force replace the Army unit, escort the Sakaguchi Detachment, leaving Tarakan around 18 January, put the detachment ashore in Balikpapan before daybreak around 20 January, join them in seizing the air base and resource areas, and advance the air unit of the Eleventh Air Fleet. Next, it shall escort an element of the Sakaguchi Detachment, leaving Balikpapan around 28 January, invade Banjarmasin before daybreak around 30 January, and secure the enemy's air base. In the event that the 1001st Unit (a paratroop unit) shall cooperate in the operation, a special order shall be issued.

The 2d Base Unit shall take on the defense of Tarakan and Balikpapan, and other related tasks. The 1st Air Unit shall cooperate with the 1st Escort Unit by providing guard against submarines and support in the landing attacks.

The 3d Escort Unit shall sail to Gaoxiong after rejoining from the Malaya Unit, escort the main force of the Sixteenth Army from there, leave Gaoxiong (Magong for part of the army) on 30 January, sail to Cam Ranh Bay, leave the bay on 11 February, and put the army ashore in Batavia and the vicinity on 16 February. An element of the Southern Expeditionary Fleet shall cooperate with the unit.

The Support Unit of the Eastern Attack Unit shall provide cover and support in the capture of Menado, Kendari, Ambon, Makassar and Kupang, etc. and [also] be on the watch for the direction of Australia.

The 2d Escort Unit shall leave Davao on 8 January, and capture Menado in a raid on 10 January to advance a unit of the Eleventh Air Fleet. Then it shall have an element of the force participate in a predawn raid on Kendari under the command of the 1st Base Force commander around 20 January, and provide cover [for the operation] with most of its force. After that, it shall escort Detachment B of the Army from Menado to Ambon (Detachment B is to be escorted from Davao to Menado beforehand by an element of the 2d Escort Unit after the capture of Menado), capture Ambon around 25 January, and secure its airfield. Then, it shall further escort Detachment B (depending on the situation, an element of its force shall be left behind in Ambon), and in conjunction with the detachment, prepare for the capture of Kupang [to be carried out] around 5 February. [Possible] use of the 1001st Unit (the paratroop unit) shall be determined by a later order.

The 1st Base Unit shall guard the anchorage in Bangka (note: north of Menado) after the capture of Menado. Then it shall conduct a sudden predawn attack on Kendari with most of the unit and an element of the 2d Escort Unit under its command around 20 January under the cover of the 2d Escort Unit, and secure the air base [there] to advance an air unit of the Eleventh Air Fleet. Depending on the situation, it shall capture Makassar.

The 2d Air Unit shall cooperate with the 2d Escort Unit by providing guard against submarines and support in the landing attacks.

The Eastern Philippines Unit, the Western Philippines Unit (omitted by the author)

The Dutch East Indies Unit issued the above orders, but compared with the Cam Ranh Agreement (i.e. General Agreement No. 4 of 1 January) the following differences appear:

1. The schedule and the outline of the capture of Makassar were not fixed due to a shortage of strength.
2. Complying with the strong wish of the Combined Fleet, the capture of Kupang was scheduled six days ahead of the plan specified in the Cam Ranh Agreement.
3. Complying with the strong wish of the Eleventh Air Fleet, the capture of Bali (airfield) was [also] included in [this] plan, which was not the case in the Cam Ranh Agreement. And so, due to the tight schedule and a shortage of strength, it was decided to conduct it as a detached operation of the Java landing operation.

6. Departure of the Headquarters of the Sixteenth Army and Revision of Its Operation Plan

Issue of the Order to Assemble and Departure of the Headquarters of the Army

As previously described, the Sixteenth Army headquarters ([still] at the War College) had planned “to depart from the mainland after the New Year, around mid-January,” when out of the blue a telegram came from Staff Officer Oda, who had arrived in Saigon on 23 Decem-

ber, saying: “[the idea of] bringing forward the Java operation by about one month is being studied, and the presence of the army commander and the chief of staff is urgently requested,” which was followed by a telegram from the Southern Army pressing [the headquarters] to come over.^(35, 36, 38)

On the 25th, Army Commander Imamura decided “to advance the command post of the army from Tokyo to Saigon on the 29th and its headquarters to Gaoxiong,” and he issued an order on the 27th to the 2d Division and the units under the direct control of the army to assemble in Gaoxiong, Taiwan, to prepare for the subsequent operations.^(32, 33) At that time, the 2d Division headquarters was in barracks on the Narashino Maneuvering Grounds.

Where to set up the headquarters of the army was a problem. Gaoxiong was a well-equipped major shipping base where not only the 2d Division, but also various other units of the Sixteenth Army transported from the mainland, Manchuria and Korea, and China would assemble, complete preparations for the operations, sort out the order of embarkation, etc. On the other hand, Saigon was the place where the headquarters of the Southern Army and the command post of the Shipping Transport Command were located, and it was [also] close to Cam Ranh Bay, which was the base of the Navy and the transit point for the 38th Division. But then again, Taipei was the seat of the Taiwan Army headquarters and the transport and communications hub in Taiwan. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of each place, the army commander decided to [first] set up his command post in Saigon, his headquarters in Gaoxiong, and his liaison office in Taipei, and [later] close the command post and the liaison office as the situation changed.^(35, 36, 38) He also decided that he would go ahead to Saigon by plane, accompanied by his chief of staff, both senior staff officers, his [chief of] aviation staff, Itoda, his [chief of] signal communications staff, Saiki, and his intelligence staff, Murakami and Kuriya, and a communication code officer to set up the command post, while he would have his vice chief of staff, Harada, fly to Gaoxiong beforehand in another plane accompanied by other staff officers, to wait for the arrival of the army headquarters coming in by ship and simultaneously conduct other tasks in Gaoxiong and Taipei as well.^(35, 36, 38) As a result, before being reunited with his army headquarters on 17 February, the army commander and his chief of staff were only present at the army headquarters from 19 to 21 January and from 25 January to 3 February. In this period, the staff of the army headquarters in Gaoxiong, the shipping staff in particular, had to rack their brains [to coordinate the situation].^(32, 44)

Due to a lack of available flights, Army Commander Imamura finally took off together with the personnel of the command post at 1500 on the 30th. He stopped over at Akeno, offered a prayer for victory at the Ise Shrine, and left Yamada on the next day, the 31st, for Shanghai first. However, due to trouble with the aircraft, the plane made an emergency landing on Cheju Island.^(32, 33, 34)

Makeshift Measures for the 38th Division

The army commander and his group, who were forced to start the year 1942 on an isolated island in southern Korea, left Jeju Island at 1700 on 1 January (the day when the Cam Ranh Agreement was signed), spent the night in Shanghai, flew from Shanghai to Taipei on the next day, the 2d, and arrived at Taipei airfield at 1100. At the headquarters of the Taiwan Army they received telegrams notifying them of “the advancement of the schedule of the

[Java] operation," "Detachment B's embarkation on 6 January and its departure from Hong Kong on 9 January," and other matters.⁽³⁴⁾ Learning that Detachment B would head for Ambon after calling at Davao, they immediately sent a telegram to order the Sakaguchi Detachment in Davao to transfer an antiaircraft artillery battery to Detachment B at Davao.⁽³⁶⁾ Staff Officer [of the Army Department] of IGHQ Sejima Ryūzō, who was visiting Taipei after attending the Cam Ranh Agreement, informed them that "military radio [units] required for Detachment B will be transferred from the Twenty-third Army ([in] southern China)," and also shared with them lessons learned in the Malaya operation.⁽³⁴⁾ After that, the Army commander and his group left Taipei for Guangdong at 1330.⁽³⁴⁾ On the next day, the 3d, they hurriedly gave the necessary briefings at Guangdong airfield to the chief of staff of the 38th Division, Col. Abe Yoshimitsu, its chief of operations staff, Maj. Oyadomari Chōsei, and Maj. Tosaka Susumu, staff officer of the 38th Division assigned to the Eastern Detachment (Detachment B), and [finally] arrived in Saigon via Tourane that evening.^(32, 34, 36)

Note: According to documents [kept by] Staff Officer Tosaka, the 38th Division had been given the order on 30 December by the Twenty-third Army commander "to form a detachment, consisting of one infantry regiment and one artillery battalion under the command of the infantry group commander as its core, so as to be suitable for an operation on an isolated island, and be ready for embarkation in Hong Kong on 6 January and departure on 9 January."

Reception of the Order to Prepare for the Capture of Java and Making Arrangements with the Navy

The [Sixteenth] Army commander and his officers received a report from Staff Officer Oda, and were [further] given details on the advancement of [the schedule of] the Dutch East Indies operation at the Southern Army headquarters the next day, the 4th.^(24, 36) On that day, [the Army Department of] IGHQ issued the order for the transfer of the 38th Division.⁽¹⁾ The place where the army commander should station himself became an issue again that night, but it was decided that both he and his chief of staff would station themselves in Saigon.⁽³⁶⁾

The next day, the 5th, Army Commander Imamura received the previously described order of the Southern Army to prepare for capturing Java (that is, to capture Bangka, southern Sumatra, Ambon and Kupang, and be ready for capturing Java).^(23, 24)

On the next day, the 6th, the Sixteenth Army received a telegram from the Dutch East Indies Unit, which proposed the following contents for the arrangement [between the army and the unit], and wired back its approval.⁽¹¹⁷⁾ The main unit of the Dutch East Indies Unit advanced to Davao on this day.⁽¹⁰³⁾

1. Detachment B (i.e. the Itō Detachment on four transport ships) shall leave Hong Kong on 12 January under the escort of the 8th Destroyer Division, and arrive in Davao on 18 January. It shall subsequently capture Ambon on 25 January and Kupang on 5 February under the direct escort of a force with the 2d Destroyer Squadron as its core.
2. The Sakaguchi Detachment shall capture Tarakan on 11 January, Balikpapan on 21 January, and Banjarmasin on 31 January [starting] from Davao escorted by a force with the 4th Destroyer Squadron as its core.
3. The main force of the Sixteenth Army shall assemble in Gaoxiong between 29 January and 5 February, and land in Batavia or its vicinity around 16 February under the direct escort of the

5th Destroyer Squadron. Details shall be arranged between the commanders of the 5th Destroyer Squadron and the Sixteenth Army on 26 January in Gaoxiong.

4. The 48th Division shall leave Manila on 7 February and land in Surabaya or its vicinity around 16 February escorted by a force with the 4th Destroyer Squadron as its core. Details shall be arranged between commanders of the 4th Destroyer Squadron and the 48th Division on 4 February in Manila.

The Southern Army's Dissatisfaction and the Escort Issue

There are three noteworthy points with regard to the arrangement above. The first is the delay in making the arrangement. The delay in the advance of the command post [of the Sixteenth Army] to Saigon via Taiwan on account of plane trouble was one reason, but [what was worse,] Vice Chief of Staff Harada and the rest of the personnel of the army headquarters to be stationed in Gaoxiong also were forced to start the new year on Kakamigahara airfield in Gifu prefecture due to a plane accident. The commander of the Navy Dutch East Indies Unit had planned to advance to Davao on his flagship, the *Ashigara*, on 2 January after concluding arrangements with the Sixteenth Army commander on 29 December in Gaoxiong ([according to] the telegram of 28 December from the Third Fleet).⁽¹¹⁷⁾ However, as of the 29th, [chief of] Shipping Staff Sendō was the only staff of the army in Taiwan while Army Commander Imamura and other officers were still in Tokyo, which gave the main unit of the Dutch East Indies Unit no choice but to leave Gaoxiong [without an arrangement] on 2 January to advance to Davao on the 6th. (Army Commander Imamura and his group made it to Taipei on their way to Saigon on the day that Commander in Chief of the Third Fleet Takahashi departed from Gaoxiong.) The second point was that the schedule of the capture of Tarakan and other places was set one day later than specified in the Cam Ranh Agreement. This was due to the fact that the captures of Davao and Jolo were conducted behind the schedule [arranged in November] as previously mentioned, and that fixing the airfields of Davao and Jolo was making slow progress because of their bad condition. Particularly, the slow progress in fixing the bases [became the primary cause of the delay], as a large force of the 23d Air Flotilla was expected to advance into Jolo after the change in the air operation plan. [Thus a postponement] was requested by the Navy and approved by the Sixteenth Army.⁽¹¹⁹⁾ Upon receiving the approval of the Sixteenth Army on 6 January, the commander of the [Navy] Dutch East Indies Unit issued an order for the postponement the next day, the 7th. The third point is the comment made by the 5th Destroyer Squadron Commander R. Adm. Hara Kenzaburō, that “although the Dutch East Indies Unit has planned and ordered that the 5th Destroyer Squadron shall escort the main force of the Sixteenth Army in fifty-six ships to Batavia, I am not confident at all that I can carry out the escort only with the force of my squadron of one cruiser and eight destroyers.”⁽³⁵⁾ At that time, the Southern Task Force had four destroyer squadrons, of which the 3d Destroyer Squadron was assigned to the Malaya Unit to be employed for the Bangka and Palembang operations. The other three destroyer squadrons were assigned to the Dutch East Indies Unit: the 2d Destroyer Squadron ([consisting of] three destroyer divisions) was planned and ordered to be employed for [the escort of] the [Army] Eastern Detachment, the 4th Destroyer Squadron ([consisting of] three destroyer divisions) for [the escort of] the Sakaguchi Detachment and the 48th Division, and the 5th Destroyer Squadron ([consisting of] two destroyer divisions) for the main force of the Sixteenth Army, as mentioned above.^(117, 118, 119, 120) As previously pointed out, the [Navy] Dutch

East Indies Unit, which would also conduct operations on the Celebes front, was not even in a position to decide on the outline of the capture of Makassar due to a shortage of strength, let alone to increase the strength of [the squadron of] Rear Admiral Hara.

On 9 January, Army Commander Imamura sent his Chief of Operations Staff Oda to the headquarters of the Southern Army to request that (1) the Navy's strength for the escort be increased and (2) the date of landing in Java be postponed.^(24, 35) The Southern Army was firmly determined to achieve a swift capture of Java and its chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Tsukada Osamu, who was dissatisfied with the Sixteenth Army's delay in advancing its command post and its postponement of the schedule for capturing Tarakan and other [places], [just] answered that (1) the Navy's escort capability should be trusted and (2) the landing on Java should definitely be carried out on day x + 70 as specified in the Cam Ranh Agreement.^(24, 35) Army Commander Imamura thought: "It is not the Army but the Navy itself, particularly the 5th Destroyer Squadron commander and the Dutch East Indies commander (the commander in chief of the Third Fleet) responsible for the task, who are worried about the escort. If things go wrong, whether the Navy is to be blamed or not, it will be my men, the Emperor's subjects and their elders' beloved sons who will be sunk to the bottom of the sea by the enemy navy." He decided to immediately meet Commander in Chief Terauchi in person to request his considerations. However, before doing so, he thought it necessary to check the fighting power of [the squadron of] Rear Admiral Hara and visited the commander of the Malaya Unit (the First Southern Expeditionary Fleet), V. Adm. Ozawa Jisaburō, at his headquarters in Saigon to ask him about it.⁽³⁵⁾ [Editor's note: According to the description on p. 185 and 188, this meeting took place in Cam Ranh.] Vice Admiral Ozawa told Lieutenant General Imamura his expectation that "by the time the main force of the Sixteenth Army heads for Java, the Malaya Unit will be able to support [the escort]; you may count on it," which made Lieutenant General Imamura feel extremely grateful [and relieved].⁽³⁵⁾

Sending off the Eastern Detachment

As soon as he had wired the Dutch East Indies Unit on 6 January his approval of the arrangement, Army Commander Imamura ordered Senior Staff Officers Takashima, of Section 1, and Kitamura, of Section 2, to leave Saigon immediately (on the 6th) for Hong Kong (for the 38th Division and the Eastern Detachment), and then head for Gaoxiong; and he had them depart on that very day.^(33, 36, 43) As previously told, the 38th Division had come under the command of the army commander two days before, on the 4th, and the Eastern Detachment had started embarking on that very day, the 6th. The army commander very much wanted to see and encourage Maj. Gen. Itō Takeo, commander of the 38th Infantry Group, who at the decision to form the detachment was appointed commander of the Eastern Detachment, but he could not leave Saigon.⁽³⁶⁾ When he had met with the staff of the 38th Division for a brief moment at Guangdong airfield previously on 3 January under the described circumstances, the details of the Eastern Detachment had not yet been decided, and thus he had not met with Major General Itō.⁽³⁶⁾ Senior Staff Officers Takashima and Kitamura left Saigon and arrived in Guangdong on the 6th, reached Hong Kong on the 7th, passed down the army's order to the 38th Division, encouraged the Eastern Detachment, and flew from Guangdong to Taiwan on the 8th.^(33, 43)

The Eastern Detachment concluded arrangements with the 8th Destroyer Division commander in Hong Kong on the 11th, departed from Hong Kong on the 12th, and headed for Davao first (where it arrived on the 18th).⁽¹¹⁷⁾ Details of the Eastern Detachment will be given later.

Revision of the Operation Plan

As previously described, immediately after the conclusion of the arrangement with the Dutch East Indies Unit, Senior Staff Officers Takashima and Kitamura went to the headquarters of the [Sixteenth] Army in Gaoxiong via Hong Kong. Staff Officers Murakami and Kuriya departed to gather information from the Kawaguchi Detachment in British Borneo and the Twenty-fifth Army in Malaya respectively. Staff Officer Itoda left to liaise with the Third Air Force and the 1st [Paratroop] Raiding Group.^(36, 39, 42) Staff Officer Saiki flew from Saigon to Hong Kong on the 6th, to give directions and support for the departure of the Eastern Detachment, together with Staff Officer Nishiura, who arrived in Guangdong from Gaoxiong on the 8th.⁽³⁴⁾

Ever since the advancement of [the schedule of] the Java operation became an issue, Staff Officer Oda had been working on a revision of the operation plan, which he substantially finished by the 6th. Before this, the chief of Section 2 of the Army Department of IGHQ, Hattori, had visited Saigon and sent the following telegram to Tokyo on 30 December:⁽²³⁾

To Vice Chief of Army General Staff

Dated 30 December

I have returned to Cam Ranh Bay. The Southern Army has worked out the following final draft regarding the conduct of subsequent operations:

1. The situation in the Malaya area is as already reported. However, due to the Takumi Detachment's advance to Kuantan and vicinity, etc., Operation Q has been called off and Operation S will be conducted around day $x + 40$.
2. The whole Operation H will be brought forward so that landing operations in Java of the main force will be carried out around day $x + 70$. Detachment B ([consisting of] three battalions of the 38th Division) will embark around day $x + 40$, assemble in Palau, and conduct operations against Ambon around day $x + 50$, and then against Kupang. The main force of the 38th Division will embark around day $x + 35$ and conduct operations against Mentok and Palembang around day $x + 60$. The 2d Division (including the units under the direct control of the [Sixteenth] Army) and the 48th Division ([also] including the units under the direct control of the army) will embark around day $x + 33$ and day $x + 55$ respectively, and both will land in Java around day $x + 70$. The operations in the Makassar Strait will be conducted on the whole according to the pre-arranged plan. [However,] as an increase in the total tonnage for the above [operations] cannot be expected, non-urgent transportation will be called off or postponed, and the formation of the force for the Sixteenth Army will be reduced to a minimum as well.
3. The main force of the 21st Division will embark around day $x + 36$ and an element of it around day $x + 48$ respectively, and [both] will be moved to northern French Indochina. The 56th Division will embark around day $x + 57$ and be moved to southern French Indochina or Thailand as reserve for the [Southern] Army.

The above items were discussed between the [Southern] Army and the Second Fleet yesterday in Cam Ranh, and they reached an agreement.

4. Regarding the Burma operation, the [Southern Army] on the whole shared our view, except the part of the draft of the operational guidelines which was revised as a result of various kinds of

research. Further, by around the end of January first of all the Moulmein operation will be conducted.

Note: Q indicates the Kuantan landing operations (which [would] have been carried out by the Koba Detachment), S indicates the Endau and Mersing landing operations (to be carried out by the main force of the 18th Division), and H the Dutch East Indies operation.

To Chief, Department 1

Dated 30 December

In view of the results of observations mainly of the Malaya operations, items to be considered in regard to the disposition of forces for Operation H, in particular the order of embarkation, are as follows. It would be appreciated if you shared them with the Sixteenth Army.

1. The strength, the formation and the composition of the army should be as light as possible. However, the commitment of army engineers and military police should be raised as much as possible. Heavy artillery and medium tanks would require much time to unload and may destroy roads.
2. Operations against an area along one road in one direction should be conducted with a combat group consisting of three infantry battalions, one artillery battery (or two batteries), one light tank squadron, one engineer company, a motor transport company, a mobile repair squad, and a signal unit, by having the group charge [into the area].
3. After landing, broken bridges rather than enemy resistance will hinder our advance most. Although there may be various countermeasures against this, the most effective way, in short, is to have a unit consisting of an elite infantry battalion as its core charge ahead while keeping close proximity to the enemy. The order of embarkation should be decided after due consideration of this fact.
4. The following units shall be put ashore at the earliest moment:
Engineer units, river-crossing material units, an element of the supply depot to collect and supervise supplies of materials, and military police units.
5. Further, as mentioned in the previous telegram, in view of the purpose of this war and the actual situation of public order right behind the front lines, it is urgently required to promptly advance agencies for implementing a military administration into site so that a [time] gap between the operations and the [beginning of] governing the occupied area will not be created.
6. I will head for Hong Kong next.

The reasons why the Sixteenth Army decided to revise at this time the previously described operation plan of 21 December generally can be inferred from the above telegram. They are roughly as follows:^(36, 40)

1. While the army was made to give up the South Seas Detachment, it had [the strength of] Detachment B (the Eastern Detachment) with two battalions as its core increased to three battalions as the core [instead].
2. As the real fighting power of the allied forces was becoming more or less clear, bold operations came to be considered appropriate.
3. It came to be considered appropriate to employ a combat group with three infantry battalions as its core and combined with various [kinds of] troops as a unit in the operations.
4. The advancement of [the schedule of] the Java operation reduced fears of large troop reinforcements in Java by the U.S., British and Australian forces.

The Sixteenth Army revised its operation plan roughly as follows. The details will be described later one by one:

1. Detachment B shall consist of three battalions commanded by the infantry group commander of the 38th Division as its core, and renamed the Eastern Detachment.
2. [Previous] plans concerning the South Seas Detachment shall be deleted.
3. The Sakaguchi Detachment shall [operate] as previously planned.
4. The force to join the central Java operations from the 38th Division (other than the Eastern Detachment) shall consist of two battalions as its core. (In the previous plan, [a unit of] three battalions commanded by the infantry group commander as its core was considered for this task. This unit should preferably have three battalions as its core, as it would take the risk of making a landing on its own in front of the Bandung stronghold. However, now that the Eastern Detachment was [increased to] three battalions, and also in terms of the main force of the 38th Division, [the strength of] this unit had to be [limited to] two battalions as its core.) The use of this detachment and the main force of the 38th Division (consisting of four battalions as its core) shall remain as previously planned.
5. The 48th Division shall additionally be given the task of seizing Cilacap at a favorable opportunity. (This was caused by the fact that [the army] had to give up the South Seas Detachment.)
6. The 2d Division shall form a powerful unit to head for Buitenzorg [Bogor] along the road at the foot of the mountains in the south [of Java] with one infantry regiment (minus one battalion) and one reconnaissance regiment, commanded by the infantry group commander, as its core. (In the previous plan [this unit] was to consist of two infantry battalions, commanded by the reconnaissance regiment commander, as its core.) This unit shall anticipate the possibility that it may have to charge toward Bandung following the seizure of Buitenzorg [Bogor].