

USS ROBINSON

DD 562

SERIAL 083

13 JUNE 1945

AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST LABUAN ISLAND, BRUNEI
BAY, BRITISH NORTHWEST BORNEO, PERIOD 4 JUNE TO 12
JUNE 1945 - U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562) - ACTION REPORT OF

[COVERS SCREENING ACTIVITIES FOR BRUNEI BAY
LANDINGS, IN TASK UNIT 78.1.2.]

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S. ROBINSON (DD562)
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03894

13 June 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, UNITED STATES FLEET.

- Via :**
- (1) The Commander TASK UNIT 78.1.2 (The Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY TWO).
 - (2) The Commander TASK GROUP 78.1 (The Commander Amphibious Group SIX).
 - (3) The Commander TASK FORCE 78 (The Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force).
 - (4) The Commander TASK FORCE 77 (The Commander SEVENTH Fleet).

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Subject: Amphibious Assault against LABUAN ISLAND, BRUNEI BAY, BRITISH NORTHWEST BORNEO; period 4 June to 12 June 1945 - U.S.S. ROBINSON (DD562) - Action Report of.

Reference: (a) PacFlt conf. ltr. 1CL-45.

Enclosure: (A) Chronological Sequence of Events. - p. 5

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following report of action is submitted:

Part I - Brief Summary

During this operation the ROBINSON acted as an anti-submarine screening vessel for the initial assault force, TASK GROUP 78.1, enroute to the objective. The Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO in this vessel was Screen Commander. Upon arrival at the objective, this vessel acted as a unit of the anti-aircraft and anti-submarine screen.

Part II - Preliminaries

(A) The operations of this vessel were as reported in Part I above. Training exercises prior to departure from MOROTAI, N.E.I. were as follows -

- (a) 9 May 1945: Fired anti-aircraft burst practice. Automatic weapons were exercised at 5th bursts. 24 5th/38 cal. AA common projectiles, 24 5th/38 cal. SFDV cartridges and 60 40 mm. HET ammunition were expended.

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- (b) 18 May 1945: Conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises against sleeve targets, towed by planes. Standard O.G.E. doctrine was observed. 117 5"/38 cal. AA common projectiles, 117 5"/38 cal. SPDN cartridges, 1010 rounds of 40 mm. HET and 2970 rounds of 20 mm. ammunition were expended.
- (c) 24 May 1945: Conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises against sleeve targets, towed by planes. Standard O.G.E. doctrine was observed. 91 5"/38 cal. AA common projectiles, 91 5"/38 cal. SPDN cartridges, 416 rounds of 40 mm. HET and 235 rounds of 20 mm. ammunition were expended.
- (d) 25 May 1945: Conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises against sleeve targets, towed by planes. Standard O.G.E. doctrine was observed. 40 5"/38 cal. AA common projectiles, 40 5"/38 cal. SPDN cartridges, 634 rounds of 40 mm. HET and 1574 rounds of 20 mm. ammunition were expended.
- (e) 30 May 1945: Planes from shore based Air Facility conducted simulated torpedo and dive bombing attacks against this vessel. Guns and director were exercised at radar control, director control and local control methods of repelling these attacks. Conducted offset surface practice at a range of 10,000 yards against a ship target. The salvo pattern M.F.I. during this exercise was excellent. Anti-aircraft firing practices were also conducted against sleeve targets, towed by planes. Standard O.G.E. doctrine was observed. 25 5"/38 cal. common projectiles, 6 5"/38 cal. AA common projectiles and 31 5"/38 cal. SPDN cartridges were expended.

(B) Own missions, doctrines, plans and assumptions were as set forth in the following directives:

- (a) CANF SWPA Operation Plan 10-45.

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- (b) General Headquarters, SWPA, Operations Instructions #102 (OI-102).
- (c) Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force Operations Plan #11-45.
- (d) Commander Amphibious Group SIX Movement and Approach Order #A605-45.
- (e) Commander Amphibious Group SIX Attack Order #A606-45.

Part III - Chronological Account of Action.

The chronological account is enclosed herewith as enclosure (A). Further narrative is omitted in the interest of brevity. All times used in this account are zone minus nine times.

Part IV - Ordnance

(A) Performance of Own Ordnance Material and Equipment.

- (a) Performance of own ordnance material and equipment was good.
- (b) Only one enemy plane made an attack against this force during the period of this report. This plane was not observed by this vessel, but was identified visually by other units as a fighter, probably type "NICK". One bomb was dropped in the vicinity of an LST.

(B) Performance of Enemy Ordnance Material and Equipment.

No comment is offered as performance of enemy ordnance material and equipment was not observed.

Part V - Damage.

None.

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Part VI - Special Comments and Information.

There are no such comments or information. The entire operation was carried out in accordance with schedule without unusual or remarkable occurrences.

Part VII - Personnel Performance and Casualties.

Personnel performance was good. There were no casualties.

RAY E. MALPASS.

Copy to:-

Cominch (2 advance)
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Enclosure (A) to
DD562 conf, serial
083 dated 13 June 1945

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS -
AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST LABUAN ISLAND, BRUNEL BAY, BORNEO

25 May 1945:

0001 Commenced operating in accordance with GANF SWFA Operation Plan No. 10-45, General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area, Operations Instructions No. 102 (OI-102), Commander SEVENTH Amphibious Force Operation Plan No. 11-45, Commander Amphibious Group SIX Movement and Approach Order No. A605-45, and Commander Amphibious Group SIX Attack Order No. A606-45.

4 June 1945:

1100 Underway from MOROTAI anchorage, MOROTAI, HALMAHERA GROUP, in company with Convoy O-6-D, T.G. 78.1, in accordance with Commander Amphibious Group SIX Movement and Approach Order No. A605-45.

1530 Departed MOROTAI STRAITS, entered MOLUKKA PASSAGE.

5 June 1945:

0522 Unidentified aircraft contact bearing 135T, 55 miles. Our position Lat. 03-30 N, Long. 126-46.1 E.

0525 U.S.S. CALDWELL (DD605) reported unidentified aircraft contact at 135T, 50 miles, closing.

0536 U.S.S. EDWARDS (DD619) confirmed unidentified aircraft contact at 140T, 20 miles.

0540 General Quarters, Air Contact.

0543 U.S.S. EDWARDS reported friendly indications on contact as it closed over formation.

0550 Regained contact on unidentified aircraft at 278T, 5 miles, now showing friendly to us.

0617 Secured from General Quarters.

1600 Departed MOLUKKA PASSAGE and entered the CELEBES SEA with MATOETOELANG ISLAND abeam to starboard, distance six miles.

2022 Sound contact, 900 yards on the starboard beam.

2024 Commander Screen, C.T.U. 78.1.2, reported contact to O.T.C. and that we were turning to investigate.

5 June 1945 Continued:

- 2028 Task Group executed an emergency three turn.
- 2034 Task Group executed an emergency two turn.
- 2037 ROBINSON completed turn to starboard without regaining contact and steadied up on guide's course to clear formation.
- 2039 Commander Screen reported details of contact to O.T.C.: no doppler, range rate 8 knots, showing apparent beam to quarter traces on chemical recorder, no other submarine indications. Target determined as non-submarine.
- 2041 Commander Screen reported to O.T.C. that he considered the critical situation to be over.
- 2043 Task Group executed a turn two.
- 2048 Task Group executed a turn 313, returning to base course.

6 June 1945:

- 0234 Radar contact, surface target, bearing 312T, range 28,200 yards, course 130T, speed 15 knots.
- 0253 C.T.G. 78.1 challenged unidentified surface contact.
- 0259 Commander Screen obtained permission from C.T.G. 78.1 to send a destroyer to investigate the unidentified surface contact and ordered the U.S.S. PHILIP (DD498) to investigate.
- 0304 Contact showed friendly indications to this ship.
- 0314 PHILIP reported contact to be U.S.S. BEAVERHEAD (AK161), that he had been given a northerly course to keep clear of our formation, and that his first communication with him was by GIC.
- 0325 PHILIP returned to station.
- 0731 Radar contact, surface target, bearing 028T, range 38,400 yards, course 310T, speed 5 knots.
- 0742 Identified surface contact as O-6-C Convoy.
- 0812 Lost contact with O-6-C Convoy bearing 031T, range 44,000 yards.
- 1223 U.S.S. JOBB (DE707) in station 3 reported weak sound contact that she was investigating.

Enclosure (A) to DD562
conf. serial 083 dated
13 June 1945.

6 June 1945 Continued:

- 1225 JUBB reported contact evaluated as fish.
- 1227 U.S.S. BANCROFT (DD598) in station 5 ordered to investigate the JOBB'S contact. BANCROFT reported that contact gave flat echo, believed to be fish or wake.
- 1435 U.S.S. BANCROFT (DD598) reported sighting surface vessel dead ahead, hull down.
- 1438 G.T.U. 78.1.2 challenged unidentified surface contact, bearing 338T, range 18 miles, course 120T, speed 12 knots, without success.
- 1443 G.T.U. 78.1.2 ordered the BANCROFT to investigate the contact.
- 1449 BANCROFT reported that the contact failed to understand the correct international signal.
- 1500 BANCROFT reported that he had merchant vessel's name, port and time of departure, that the vessel had not received any recognition signals prior to departure, and that he intended to go close aboard for further investigation.
- 1505 G.T.U. 78.1.2 ordered BANCROFT to send a party aboard to investigate.
- 1510 BANCROFT reported that she was sending a boarding party to the vessel.
- 1543 G.T.U. 78.1.2 ordered the BANCROFT to allow the merchant ship to continue, and BANCROFT to rejoin formation.

7 June 1945:

- 0135 G.T.U. 78.1.2 ordered screen to close main body as necessary to insure safe navigation.
- 0215 With LANHILL ISLAND abeam to port 7 miles, departed CELEBES SEA and entered BASILAN STRAIT.
- 0305 U.S.S. PHILIP (DD498) ordered to take station 10,000 keeping all small craft clear of the formation.
- 0425 Passed GREAT SANTA CRUZ ISLAND abeam to starboard 1.6 miles.

Enclosure (A) to DD562
Def. serial 003 dated
13 June 1945.

7 June 1945 Continued:

- 0514 C.T.G. 78.1 ordered the U.S.S. WINOOSKI (4038) to join our formation at daylight.
- 0610 PHILIP ordered to resume his regular screening station.
- 0700 With TEINGA ISLAND bearing 212T, distance 8 miles, departed BASILAN STRAIT and entered SULU SEA.
- 0715 Convoy O-6-G, U.S.S. WINOOSKI (4038), U.S.S. DOUGLAS A MURROE (DE422) and U.S.S. A.T. HARRIS (DE447) joined formation.
- 0955 ROBINSON completed fueling from WINOOSKI and returned to station.

8 June 1945:

0400 Passed COGAYAN-SULU ISLAND abeam to port, distance 12 miles.

- 1620 With KAMIRAN ISLAND bearing 243T, 7.5 miles, departed SULU SEA and entered NASUBATA CHANNEL, BALABOE STRAITS.
- 1715 Convoy O-6-H, U.S.S. WILLOUGHBY (AGP9) and MTB squadron 13, joined the formation.
- 2200 Departed BALABOE STRAIT and entered the SOUTH CHINA SEA.

9 June 1945:

- 1403 Picked up unidentified aircraft contact bearing 163T, 34 miles, course 015T, speed 190.
- 1404 Reported unidentified aircraft contact to C.T.G. 78.1, following up with amplifying report.
- 1407 Unidentified aircraft contact went into fade bearing 160T, distance 30 miles.
- 1410 Unidentified aircraft contact emerged from fade showing friendly, bearing 125T, 25 miles.
- 1410 Reported to C.T.G. 78.1 that our air contact showed friendly.
- 1417 Task Unit 74.3.5 reported to C.T.G. 78.1 and ordered to join formation.
- 1630 Task Group 78.1 formed approach disposition 6RS.
- 2058 Radar contact, surface target, bearing 171T, distance 32,500 yards.

Enclosure (1) to DE562
conf. serial 083 dated
13 June 1945.

9 June 1945 Continued:

- 2059 JOBB (DE707) reported unidentified surface contact bearing 170T, 17 miles.
- 2115 Identity of contact established as Task Group 74.3, tracked on base course 355T, speed 15 knots.
- 2135 Task Group 74.3 took position ahead of Task Group 73.1, proceeding our disposition into BRUNEI BAY.
- 2214 Unidentified surface contact reported by the U.S.S. PHOENIX (CL46) in Task Group 74.3 bearing 179T, 8 miles from him. This ship had unidentified surface contact bearing 171T, distance 35,000 yards, course 270T, speed 12 knots. Identity of contact unknown to us. C.T.G. 74.3 took no further action.

10 June 1945:

- 0044 Task Group 73.1 changed course to 123T, commencing approach to BRUNEI BAY.
- 0137 Task Group 74.3 formed special approach disposition for entrance into the bay.
- 0205 U.S.S. JOBB (DE707) ordered to proceed ahead of the disposition to insure that ships ahead did not foul the formation.
- 0215 Task Group 73.1 decreased interval to 500 yards for entrance into the bay.
- 0230 C.T.U. 73.1.2 ordered all screening vessels to close main body as necessary to insure safe navigation.
- 0312 JOBB reported that ships ahead of disposition were LCI(L)s and that they had been ordered to make best possible speed to clear our formation.
- 0400 Went to General Quarters for entrance to BRUNEI BAY.
0427 Task Group 73.1 deployed.
- 0435 With BRUSAKAN BESAR ISLAND abeam to port, distance 4.6 miles, departed SOUTH CHINA SEA, entered BRUNEI BAY.
- 0519 Task Unit 73.1.16 Brown Assault Unit, deployed, this ship proceeding to screening station X-8.

Enclosure (A) to LB562
conf. serial 083 dated
13 June 1945.

10 June Continued:

- 0525 Commenced patrolling on station X-8, furnishing anti-submarine and small boat protection for Brown Assault Unit.
- 0653 Bomb dropped in water off LABUAN ISLAND.
- 0653 Flash Red, control Green.
- 0659 Unidentified aircraft contact reported bearing 250T, 23 miles.
- 0706 Unidentified aircraft contact reported bearing 252T, 42 miles, opening.
- 0712 Unidentified aircraft contact reported bearing 170T, 5 miles from us. Unable to pick it up.
- 0712 Unidentified aircraft contact reported bearing 335T, 20 miles, low.
- 0713 Commenced patrolling anti-submarine screening station X-3, speed 10 knots.
- 0825 Flash Blue, control Green.
- 0827 Unidentified aircraft contact reported bearing 253T, distance 26 miles.
- 0832 Flash White, control Green.
- 0925 Flash Red, control Green.
- 0931 Flash Blue, control Green.
- 1132 Flash White, control Green. Secured from General Quarters.
- 1840 Commenced patrolling on screening station X-10, speed 10 knots.

11 June 1945:

- 1201 Flash Red, control Green. This ship went to General Quarters.
- 1220 Flash White, control Green.
- 1222 Secured from General Quarters.

Enclosure (A) to DD562
conf. serial 083 dated
13 June 1945.

11 June 1945 Continued:

1437 ComTransDiv 103 came aboard from the U.S.S. LLOYD (APD63)
to confer with ComDesRon 22.

1600 ComTransDiv 103 returned to the LLOYD.

12 June 1945:

1000 Departed X-10 screening station, proceeding to vicinity
of U.S.S. ROCKY MOUNT (AGC3) in VICTORIA anchorage.

1032 C.T.U. 78.1.2, ComDesRon 22, left ship for ROCKY MOUNT.

1220 C.T.U. 78.1.2, ComDesRon 22, returned aboard.

1240 Relieved H.M.A.S. BARCOO (K375) on screening station
X-8. Commenced patrolling station at 15 knots.

2000 Unidentified aircraft contact bearing 239T, 10 miles,
course 005T, speed 200 knots.

2001 Made initial report to C.T.G. 78.1.

2006 Made amplifying report. Unidentified aircraft contact
now at 300T, 7 miles from us. Contact lost over land.

2013 Regained contact on unidentified aircraft, bearing
040T, 14 miles, course 020T, speed 200, now showing
friendly. Made report to C.T.G. 78.1 and U.S.S.
SPENCER (CGC).

2034 Flash Red, control Yellow. Unidentified aircraft con-
tact reported bearing 190T, 5 miles from us.

2035 Single possible unidentified aircraft contact indication
bearing 150T, 4 miles. No further contact.

2102 Flash white, control Yellow.

2105 Secured from General Quarters.