

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27)

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO

PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

SECTION (A) - AIR OPERATIONS (5) Searches flown.

On 1 July 1945 warning was received that four unidentified ships were approaching Makassar Strait on course 020° from position 06° 02' S, 116° 12' E at 1940(I).

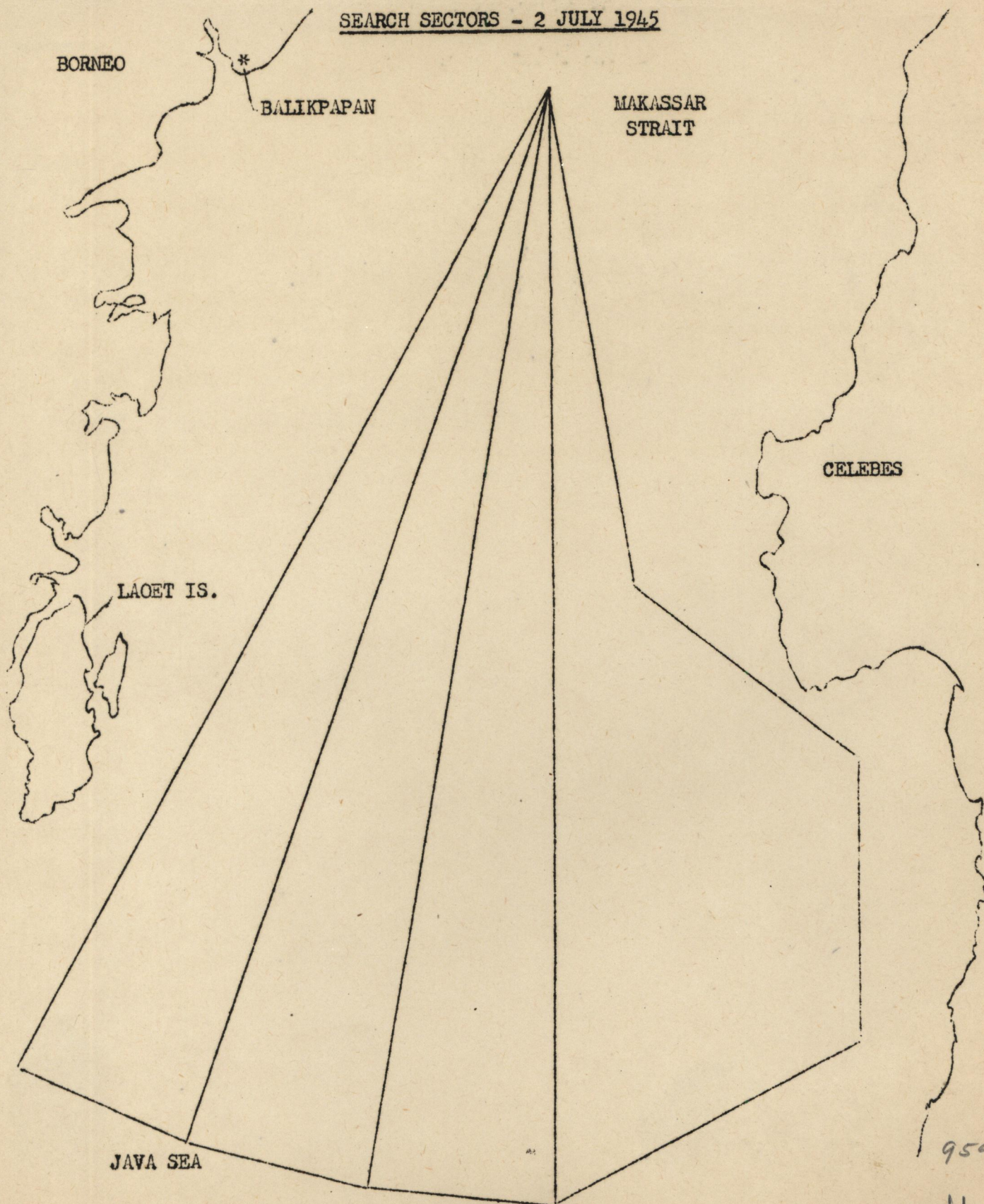
A four-sector search was planned and flown the next morning, covering 40° from 170° to 210°, with 250-mile legs. The easternmost sector was altered to permit observation of Mandar Gulf and the Spermonde Archipelago (see diagram on following page). Full radar coverage of all sectors was obtained, visual coverage ranging from 60% to 100%. Results were negative.

The first launch was at 0635(I) and the last recovery was at 1110(I).

CONFIDENTIAL

DIAGRAM OF SEARCH FLOWN

SEARCH SECTORS - 2 JULY 1945



(VI)(A)(5)-2

954

11

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27)

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO

PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

SECTION (A) AIR OPERATIONS (6) COMMENTS

(a) Air operations consisted of local and target combat air patrols, local anti-submarine patrols, VF and VT support and air observer missions; also one 250-mile sector search. There were no contacts by patrols or search planes. Support missions hit area targets rather than pin-point targets. Combat air patrols were successfully used to deny to the enemy the use of the fine roads leading away from the target, and a large number of motor vehicles were destroyed by strafing. There were no A/A casualties nor plane damage in this group although there was much light A/A in the target area, and several other planes were shot down. Precautions against A/A fire must always be strictly observed, whether or not fire is observed.

(b) One fault uncovered by the operation was the use of non-standard CIC terminology. A few terms used by the target FDO were not understood not found on the standard list, and on at least one occasion one of the Task Unit's CIC's made the same error. The promulgation of, and strict adherence to, standard terminology is of great importance, particularly when planes, ships and troops of different services are employed in the same operation.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27)

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO

PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

SECTION (B) - AMPHIBIOUS ACTION (1) Air Support

Planes from this carrier provided direct air support for invading ground forces on Fox day and Fox-plus-two day (1 July and 3 July 1945). Barracks, bivouac areas, roads, and motor transport were attacked.

Communications between attacking planes and Commander Air Support were generally poor; on one occasion an infantry brigade headquarters took over control of a bombing attack, due to imperfect knowledge of the ground situation on the part of Commander Air Support, apparently traceable to communications.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27)

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO

PARK VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

SECTION (C) - SPECIAL COMMENTS

1. Combat Information Center.

(a) A considerable degree of teamwork in Fighter Direction was displayed by the three CVE's engaged in this operation. Fighter Direction duty was again rotated from day to day but control was smoothly passed from one carrier to another during interceptions, depending on which one of the carriers had the best picture of the situation at the time.

(b) Again, many interceptions were made of PBM's, B-24's and other aircraft showing bogey. On 3 July, 12 B-24's showing bogey were intercepted, most of them bound for the target area. Warning of the approach of these aircraft was passed to the beach in each case over H/F IFD circuit.

(c) All C.I.C. equipment performed in a satisfactory manner during this operation.

2. Communications.

No unusual communications problems arose during this operation.

3. Deception and Concealment.

Use of smoke or deception measures was not considered necessary and was not resorted to during this operation.

4. Navigation.

(a) Navigation during the early part of this operation was somewhat hampered by the fact that a complete overcast was present in the Strait for the first thirty-six hours. During this time LORAN was relied upon exclusively for navigation, stations 4H6, 2H4 and 2H5 being used. Station 4H7 was not used, as the operating area was very close to the base line extension. The first celestial fix showed an error of only four miles from the LORAN position.

Good, strong sky waves were received from one hour before sunset to an hour before sunrise. Twelve LORAN fixes were taken and all but two were excellent when the weather improved. Sun and stars agreed with LORAN, normal error being from two to six miles in various directions.

(b) During this operation no mines of any type were sighted.

(c) Navigational track is enclosed (Enclosure "B").

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO - PART VI - SPECIAL COMMENTS AND INFORMATION-
SECTION (C) - SPECIAL COMMENTS

5. Engineering.

The Ship's engines functioned normally during this operation.

6. Supply.

There were no unusual problems of supply during this operation.

7. Medical.

The health of officers and men of the ship and air group remained generally good.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27)

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO

PART VII - PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND CASUALTIES

1. The conduct and performance of officers and men of the ship and Air Group was satisfactory in every respect. No undue strain was placed on personnel and the opportunity to participate in this operation was generally welcomed by all hands.
2. There were no personnel casualties.

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.S. SUWANNEE (CVE-27)

ACTION REPORT - BALIKPAPAN, BORNEO

PART VIII - COMMENTS, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No particular lessons were learned, due to the shortness of the operation. All air operations were carried out on schedule and no difficulties were experienced beyond minor communication failures.
2. There are no recommendations not included in previous reports.

NAVAER 443A-2
TIME ENTRIES ON THIS FORM ARE 135 MERIDIAN TIME
TO CONVERT TO GCT 9 HOURSUNITED STATES NAVY DEPARTMENT
SURFACE WEATHER OBSERVATIONS
(MOBILE STATION)
WBAN — 11SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
CONFIDENTIAL
STATION U.S. SUWANNEE
LAT 04 LONG 19

Position O.L.L.I.	Course	Speed	Type	Time of Day	Casting Time	Sky	Vis - ibility	Weather and/or Obstructions to Vision	Sea and Swells	Temp and Dew Pt.	Wind Direction (true)	Wind Force (knots)	Character of Wind	Remarks and Supplemental Code Data (for transmission)	Precip. Type	Precip. Amount	CLOUDS				Barometric Pressure	Dry Bulb	Wet Bulb	Obs. Time		
																	Low	Middle	High	Sea Level						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)			
70218 070	14	R	0600	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12						6-0.2	6.50	4/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 350	14	S	0700	00/25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	86	13.2
70218 350	15	S	0800	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	R	0900	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	S	0911	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	S	0934	E 24	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	S	0945	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	S	0945	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	R	1000	E 24	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	14	S	1145	00/24	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 110	14	R	1200	00/24	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 350	14	R	1300	00/20	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 140	18	R	1400	00/20	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 145	12	R	1500	00/20	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 350	18	R	1600	00/20	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 350	18	R	1700	00/20	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 000	16	S	1749	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 350	17	R	1800	E 25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 060	15	S	1810	00/25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2
70218 230	18	R	1900	00/25	00/00	10			66/66 75 75 12	12							5.50	5/45					82.0	77.0	85	13.2

SUMMARY OF DAY (inches) to midnight

6-HOURLY

OBSERVATIONS

Remarks, Notes, and Miscellaneous Remarks

Time of sunrise 0706 Time of sunset 1915
24-hr. Max. Temp —° F 24-hr. Min. Temp —° F
24-hr. Precip. (water equivalent) — in. 24-hr. Snowfall (unmelted) — in.
Total hours of fog (light) 0 Moderate 0 Heavy 0
Max. wind (gust) — (MPH) Direction — Time —
Extreme wind (fastest single mile) — (MPH) Direction — Time —
Peak gust — (MPH) Direction — Time —
Thickness of ice on water — in. in — in.
Ground frozen from — in. in — in.

Time of obs 0900 1500 2100
Precip. (in) — — —
Snowfall (in) — — —
Sea depth (in) — — —
Max. Temp — — —
Min. Temp — — —
24-hr. Precip. — — —
Rel. Hum. % — — —
Soil Temp — — —
State of ground — — —

Time of obs 0900 1500 2100
State of sky 3 3 3
Wind 5 5 5
Precip. — — —
Snowfall — — —
Sea depth — — —
Max. Temp — — —
Min. Temp — — —
24-hr. Precip. — — —
Rel. Hum. % — — —
Soil Temp — — —
State of ground — — —

SHIP UNDER INFLUENCE OF PRESSURE AT
WITH TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE GIVING A
SW'LY CIRCULATION. CURRENTLY ACTIVE
CAUSED TW-EARLY PART OF TROPICAL
FRONT LOCATED NORTH OF SHIP, BUT ARO
NO EFFECT ON THE OPERATING AREA.
Flying conditions favorable.

Month July Day 1 Year 1945

Eldorado-74F-1-30-45

ENCLOSURE (A)-2