



SUPPLEMENT

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NAVAL OPERATIONS IN RAMREE ISLAND AREA 19TH JANUARY TO 22ND FEBRUARY, 1945

The following Despatch was submitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the 2nd May, 1945, by Vice-Admiral Sir ARTHUR J. POWER, K.C.B., C.V.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

East Indies Station.

2nd May, 1945.

The accompanying reports by Flag Officer, Force "W" on naval operations in the Ramree Island area between 19th January and 22nd February, 1945, are forwarded for the information of Their Lordships.

2. I concur in the conclusions of the Senior Officer Advanced Force "W", and in the remarks of Flag Officer, Force "W". Considerable ingenuity and resourcefulness were shown by all the Commanding Officers in this operation, and the endurance and determination of the crews of small craft during Operation "Block" were most creditable. The Royal Indian Navy landing craft crews demonstrated again the zeal and efficiency which have formed a notable contribution to the success of all the combined operations on the Arakan Coast.

(Signed) ARTHUR POWER,
Vice-Admiral.

Enclosure 1.

Office of Flag Officer Force "W"

20th March, 1945.

REPORT ON NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE RAMREE ISLAND AREA.

The attached report on the Naval Operations at Ramree Island is forwarded.

2. As stated in paragraph 7 of the report I instructed my Chief Staff Officer, Captain E. W. Bush, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., to place

himself on divisional level with Major-General Lomax at Kyaukpyu and to render all assistance to that officer in his task of clearing the enemy off Ramree Island. Though this step meant that my Chief Staff Officer was divorced from me from 24th January to 24th February, I am of the opinion that the results obtained justified it.

3. As will be seen from the report the naval operations were of a unique kind, calling for resourcefulness, determination and professional experience, and Captain Bush rose to the occasion in the able manner I expected him to, and I consider that the success of the naval operations at Ramree was due to this officer's efforts

4. I fully concur with paragraph 36 et seq. of the report

(Signed) B. C. S. MARTIN,
Rear-Admiral.

Enclosure 2.

Office of Senior Officer,
Advanced Force "W",
Kyaukpyu, Ramree Island.
22nd February, 1945.

I have the honour to submit the following Report on Naval Operations in the Ramree Island Area from 19th January to 22nd February, 1945. These operations formed part of the strategic advance of the 15th Indian Corps down the Arakan coast with a view to securing the airfields on Ramree Island from which Fourteenth Army could be supplied on their advance on Rangoon, and operations could be mounted for the capture of that port by sea should it become necessary, and which in fact did prove the case.