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HEADQUARTERS
Office of Strategic Services
India Burma Theater
APO 432

Registry # MHC-01

8 May 1945

SUBJECT: Operation SIREN

TO : Director, Office of Strategic Services, Washington,
D. C.
ATTENTION THAI COMMITTEE

1. Forwarded herewith is the diary report of Operation SIREN III-D and IV-A for the period 31 March to 22 April 1945, prepared by Captain Howard Palmer.


JOHN G. COUGHLIN
Colonel, Infantry
Strategic Services Officer, IBT

Incl.

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MEMORANDUM

Registry # MHC-01

SUBJECT: Diary Report of SIREN III-D and IV-A
(31 March to 22 April 1945)

TO: Mr. Carleton F. Scofield

FROM: Captain Howard Palmer

D 67576

31 March We left Madras at 0958 India time. We passed Landfall Island at 1828 and Tavoy at 2115. The trip was uneventful and we landed at the rendezvous point, upon receiving the signals from the launch, at 2305. The sea was fairly rough with a deep swell. We had trouble finding a spot where the water was calm enough to enable us to unload the Catalina. It was necessary to taxi in fairly close to shore and it was later learned that the Catalina was about 800 yards from a fishing boat. Chan assured us that he had taken care of that security breach. We set out at once for Bangkok.

1 April The day was spent in traveling by motor launch through the Gulf and at early evening we entered the Klong. No difficulty was experienced with engine breakdowns as occurred on the previous trip. We arrived at the Customs Wharf at 2235 Bangkok time. There we were met by Lt. Col. Samroeng. He took us to the car and drove us to Chan's house. There we met John and spent the rest of the evening discussing Dick's trip to Washington and the directives which had been given him by the Planning Board in Kandy.

2 April Ruth arrived early in the morning and spent an hour listening to the story of Dick's trip to Washington. He was plainly disappointed that no decision had been reached by the Joint Chiefs but accepted the situation. We first discussed the Jackpot project and I believe the results of that conversation were covered fully enough in the formal report. The remainder of the day was spent in resting up and in the early evening we were visited by Col. Samroeng again but no business was discussed. It may be well here to give a description of our living conditions at this place and the typical day. We were quartered in the upstairs portion of a fairly large house but were confined to a single room containing three beds, a table, four chairs, and a rattan couch. We were not allowed to go outdoors at all during the day and not allowed to go downstairs until 8 at night. The only contacts we had during the day were contacts with Ben and Poon at 10 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. Breakfast and lunch were served to us upstairs. At 5 o'clock we usually had at least one caller. In most instances this was Col. Samroeng. Our evening meal was taken downstairs in the company of the Thai boys and our host, Chan. This was by far the best meal

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of the day. After dinner we usually went outdoors and took turns around the compound for exercise. It is plain to see how so restricted a life could affect an individual who had to endure it alone.

3 April This morning Chan arrived and we had a talk with him concerning his guerrillas. Chan had trailed us into Bangkok in another boat in order to take care of any breaches of security that occurred en route. We learned that Ruth and Betty had a meeting this day and consolidated their efforts and, what was more important to us, agreed to coordinate the activities of all our Thai agents. Col. Samroeng showed up this afternoon but the information he gave us was old Jap battle order which we already had.

4 April This morning John complained of chills and a fever and acted very weak. Knowing that we had a period of several hours before we could get any assistance, we decided to give him the prophylaxis Atabrine treatment prescribed by Major Risher. He seemed to pep up as the day went along.

At 4 o'clock, Col. Samroeng arrived in a great state of excitement. He brought us the news of the Geng Koi railroad station in which many Thais were killed, most of them civilians. This had caused a very serious morale problem in the Thai headquarters. This was the target which they had requested us specifically not to bomb for a period of ten days because they were trying to move Thai troops into the northern area to counterbalance Jap troop movements.

Chan brought us word of an airfield which can be put to our use near Chaiphum.

That night as we took our stroll in the garden, Betty arrived with the four boys and formally released them to us. We were not present at this conference and did not meet Betty at this time.

5 April John woke up early this morning, reread the messages of the previous day and started to send a message that we were all coming out because the mission was a failure. This was the first indication of his later illness but even at this point we had no suspicions that it would develop into anything serious.

Col. Samroeng brought information concerning French Indo-China and the crisis at Kengtung, which has been covered in another report. Ruth sent word that an attempt would be made to exfiltrate McGarry.

Conversations with Samroeng this evening revealed

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6 April John again showed the effects of being overworked and from this day on Dick took complete charge. The day was spent in obtaining information to furnish our headquarters to clear up the British denials of a proposed military mission. Ruth instructed Chan to turn over to us all messages exchanged and the frequencies and call signs of the stations involved.

Colonel Samroeng asked us whether we would be interested in seeing the Chief of Staff, General Chad, and we assured him that we were. He had delayed arranging such a meeting because General Chad speaks no English but we decided our high school French would be sufficient to get some benefit out of the meeting.

7 April Today about noon we could hear fighters flying over the city. We later received word that Don Muang had been strafed by American P-51's and that once again the Thais had suffered the greater part of the damage. General Chad had to postpone his visit because the northern army commander had arrived in Bangkok for a military conference. This general and his party narrowly escaped being killed in the raid on Don Muang. They arrived just fifteen minutes prior to the attack and both planes which carried the staff were completely destroyed. This is the reason we have never yet been able to get Pete to Kengtung.

8 April We took the day off in the sense that we made no attempt to do any further planning or obtain any intelligence. We had no visitors.

At 1700 hours we heard a single loud explosion and John made the remark on that occasion that it sounded like a time bomb.

When we went down to dinner we found that Chan had not returned yet. He came in when we were half way through and appeared very happy. He asked us whether we had heard the explosion in the afternoon but made no further comment. Later on in the evening he could no longer restrain himself and when the topic of the explosion came up again he slipped and said "We did not think it would be that loud." Realizing he had given away the secret of the explosion he then proceeded to tell us how it was accomplished. Although the area was heavily guarded by the Japs, there was a deserted building in an adjoining wharf. Late Saturday night, having already cut a section of that building out, some of Chan's men were able to sneak in and drop a time bomb through a window of the warehouse. After that it was just a question of waiting when

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9 April Ian and Sam joined us at dinner tonight. They had traveled down from Korat in order to be formally released by Betty. They left for Korat the following day.

We were relieved to hear that following a formal investigation, the Japs made no demands on the Thais on account of the explosion and officially credited it to the careless handling of bomb fuses by their own officers.

There was another air raid today and we heard the fighters quite audibly.

Chan appeared very upset at dinner time and we discovered the reason was that he had not been informed of our changing the drop point at Jolburi to Phrae. He had already made arrangements and the Admiral of the Navy was assisting him in securing the drop area. This matter was cleared up and steps were taken that clearance of all drop areas would be through Chan. Ben had suggested the change and we had concurred, assuming that he had already notified Chan.

10 April John woke up delirious this morning and it took about an hour and a half to straighten him out. We notified Ruth who promptly sent a doctor. This doctor was obviously of poor calibre because without even the most trifling examination he diagnosed it as a case of Atabrine poisoning. John was not noisy but was very depressed.

For the first time, Samroeng gave us code numbers of some of the Jap troops in Thailand. We considered this quite a victory since he had always worked under the assumption that we were most interested in Thai troop movements and disposition.

11 April John was up at 8 reading and rereading messages in a completely confused manner. We then knew that he was in serious danger of completely losing his mind.

Our hopes of sending John out via the new airfield were removed today since Ruth cannot transfer his men to Pukio before the 25th. Colonel Samroeng came over on his way to visit the Internment camp and we gave him questionnaires for the three American pilots and sent them packages of cigarettes, gum, and Atabrine. When the Colonel saw the little pile of things we had collected, he immediately said: "I can't take any of that." But, by handing him the articles one at a

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time, we finally got him to take everything in the original file.

Tawi came for a visit today and gave us a list of the medical and clothing requirements for Thailand and asked us that the orders be filled at once for delivery after the war.

12 April This was a big event in our lives because today we moved to new quarters. Ever since Dick and I had first arrived, Chan had told us we were going to move. The time for the move had been continuously postponed. I guess they realized that John's condition was due in part to the extremely cramped quarters in which he was forced to live.

We had a big farewell dinner and at 8 o'clock the Colonel arrived to drive us to our new home. He was very proud because the Chief of Staff had lent him his car for this occasion. To get to our new place we had to go through part of the downtown district of Bangkok and while we were only half way there the horn on the car got stuck. The remainder of the journey was as secret as LaGuardia going to a fire. We tried to persuade the Colonel to stop and yank the wires out of the horn but he restricted his efforts to vocal hushings which were not effective. Nothing, however, occurred and we were lucky that the horn stopped just prior to our arrival at the new residence.

We inspected our new home and found it in complete contrast to our old one. We were actually in the palace of a former Regent and there was plenty of room. They gave John his own bedroom and sitting room and put Dick and me in a separate bedroom at the other end of the house.

Just prior to retirement, the Colonel asked us whether we would like to go for a ride. Not suspecting what was in store, we declined. As it turned out, it would have been far more than an ordinary ride. Apparently Ruth and the others felt that the lack of feminine companionship was partly responsible for John's condition. They had evacuated, at considerable expense, a residential section, rented a house, and ordered eight girls. Extra policemen were put on to insure complete secrecy. The Thais were so polite and so subtle that we missed this completely and only learned this two days before my departure. With some reluctance they admitted the total expense was in the neighborhood of 4,000 ticals.

Ruth came over to welcome us to our new home. One of the advantages of this new place is that it is two doors up the river from Ruth's residence. We could see a great deal

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more of Ruth than was possible formerly. Staying with us were Ben, Wyman, Foon, Pete, and Amney. The radio equipment was moved over and set up in a room which we used as a message center. Inasmuch as the place was so large, Ruth assured us that every night there would be a sufficient number of government callers to maintain the cover story that the residence was being reopened for a high government official. There were two policemen stationed at the gate and about six additional civilian guards inside the compound. Despite this, our own boys had to take turns pulling guard duty, but we hope this situation is remedied by now.

13 April This was indeed Friday the 13th. Tawi brought news before breakfast of the President's death. It was a tremendous shock to all of us. He had heard the news on the 0645 San Francisco broadcast. We kept this news from John.

Further depressing news of a minor nature was a cable informing us that all our drops had been cancelled.

At 1200 Chan approached us on behalf of Ruth as to the feasibility of conferring a decoration upon John. He thought the decoration would show John that the Thai people appreciated his efforts and would relieve his worries on that score. We agreed although we realized that he was not authorized to accept such a decoration in war time.

At 1400, Ruth, accompanied by his Deputy Prime Minister and a high military officer, arrived for the presentation. It was held in a little waiting room and the ceremony went through without incident. Upon completion of the ceremony, John returned to his bedroom and, calling for Chan, gave him the decoration to hold for him until after the war. As far as he knows, this is still the arrangement. At night we met Betty for the first time. Ruth brought him over along with Nai Direk whom he termed as his "Prime Minister of the Underground." We had a two hour conference and felt that much was accomplished. Betty is a very small, lean man with extremely sharp features. At the beginning of the conference he explained that he could not speak English and would make his comments in Thai for Ruth to interpret. We later discovered that he spoke English well enough to make numerous corrections of Ruth's interpretations of his statements. When we called this to his attention he smiled and said "It is true I understand English but I cannot speak it."

The conference was concerned principally with air rescue and in expressing to Betty the appreciation of the air force for what he had done. He formally promised that McGarry would be delivered to us the following night.

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We questioned Nai Direk on his conference with the British in the Gardens. He stated that no formal proposal was made to the Thais and that British interests seemed to be confined to intelligence.

We finally got some sedatives for John and persuaded him to take some before retiring. Poon had to go into the Jap section of Bangkok and purchase the drugs on the Black Market.

14 April This was the day that John had his first violent attack. Enough details have been given elsewhere. From this day on he had from two to three such attacks and Ruth instructed that a doctor be constantly in attendance. This time he sent two excellent doctors, one of them a Cornell graduate. He made all of the usual laboratory tests and confirmed our growing belief that there was nothing organically wrong. Since John was suspicious of all Thais, Dick and I took turns staying with him during his waking hours.

At 1500, American and British Liberators came over and bombed for two hours. We could see the planes and the bombs falling very clearly. The Samsen power station was a mile up the river from our residence. We were all excited and spent most of the time taking pictures. We believe that this is what finally drove John completely off because he was never rational for more than two minutes a day thereafter.

Although at the time of the bombing we did not know what the targets were, we soon found out. That night there were no lights and, what was worse, no water. We immediately started boiling river water for drinking purposes.

About 2030, Ruth came over and inquired as to John's condition. About thirty minutes later, Betty arrived with McGarry. McGarry was so stunned at his release that he quite understandably did not say two words all evening. The first notion he had of what was going on was when he was delivered to us. He did not seem overjoyed and his first concern was for his fellow inmates, all of which we appreciated.

The fourth visitor that night was Luang Sinat, Thai Commander-in-Chief. Ruth had brought him over for a personal visit and no business was discussed on this evening except what to do with John. It was suggested by someone that he be placed in the hospital for the seven days that remained but Betty decisively vetoed this suggestion. It was agreed that the important thing was to keep him quiet and not attempt any sort of treatment.

15 April No improvement in John's condition. Most of the day was spent with the doctors, who had not yet started

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using injections. That night about 0200 he had another bad attack and it was at this time that they started forcibly using injections. Morphine and Luminol were the two most used. Ruth sent around a bottle of Thai whiskey just before suppertime and it was most welcome.

16 April This was the day we had a possibly serious breach of security. About 1400 John broke away from Dr. Chai and ran to the window in the bedroom which overlooked the street. He tried to climb out the window and yelled at Amney who was in the yard at the time. There were two people going by in the street at this time and we were unable to determine whether they had heard or seen anything. Betty assured us later that there would be no breach of security. What arrangements he made, we do not know. This was the first time we had to use a gag.

Known apparently to everybody but myself, this was Dick's birthday. The evening meal was unusually good with six quarts of Thai beer and four quarts of whiskey. There were about fifteen people present.

It had been a hard day so after listening to the radio for a few minutes we went to bed only to be awakened about fifteen minutes later with the news that Ruth had come for a visit. We went downstairs to the main living room and Ruth was there with a bottle of champagne. He wished Dick a very happy birthday and the three of us proceeded to sample his gift. This champagne was from French Indo-China and was highly prized.

17 April Met Tieng, Lao representative, who had arrived in Bangkok the day before. We discussed the "SLEEVE" drop and made the final arrangements. John was violent again on two occasions but this was the first and only night that he slept through without any disturbance.

18 April Radio communication seriously broke down at this point. Although Chen had taken the batteries over to the Signal Corps for charging, the apparatus was not properly geared for our batteries and they never lasted more than an hour.

At 1430 there was another air raid and although we could see the planes and hear the explosions, it was too far away for any photography. Both U.S. and British pamphlets were dropped but the Thai reaction was one of disappointment since one of the pamphlets had already been used before. We learned that Bangkok and Borneo Wharf had been badly damaged and that one American aircraft was lost at Ratburi. Unfortunately, all members of the crew were killed.

By this time the doctors were a little worried about

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us and suggested a boat ride on the river for relaxation. Ruth sent his sampan over and Dick, McGarry, Tawi, and I went down the river. The fires were still burning from the afternoon raid and we had hoped to go far enough down to examine the damage ourselves but the boat suddenly started leaking and we barely made the dock.

19 April Very few schedules today. We were now using the Dag which Major Compton had given us for our own amusement. Without that radio we would have been unable to receive any messages.

Ruth came over at night for a final conference. He brought with him three bottles of beer as a going away present. While we were visiting with Ruth, Betty arrived by car and joined the meeting. At all times Ruth seemed very anxious that we apportion part of our supplies to Betty. They left about 2200 and we assumed that this would be the farewell visit.

20 April Tieng, Chan, and Tawi came for a conference in the morning regarding the drops. Colonel Samroeng came about 11 bringing with him Wing Commander Tawi. We were very much impressed at this first meeting.

In the afternoon the doctors started a treatment which they had outlined for keeping John completely unconscious for twenty-four hours. It had apparently worked because at supper time he was sleeping soundly, but only apparently because in the middle of the meal in walked John, completely dressed, asking us when we were leaving. For a minute he was clear and then trouble began again and we took him upstairs and gave him three more double doses.

Everyone we had met with the exception of Nai Direk arrived between the hours of 1900 and 2000 to see that everything went all right. The boat arrived about 9 but we could not leave until 2130 due to the tides. John was still conscious when he was taken to the launch but he made no noise. We left at 2130.

The launch was about 80 feet long and runs on a diesel engine on oil which was stolen from the Japs. It has a closed upper deck which makes a sort of cabin of the forward part of the boat. In this cabin are two wooden benches running parallel to the sides of the boat. There were twenty-four people on board the launch.

We passed the Borneo-Bangkok docks and the fires were still burning over a large area. Going through the Kong we were stuck three times but made the Gulf easily by morning.

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We went out about four miles and anchored at some fishing
 boats during the day. At 1930 we made for the rendezvous
 point arriving there about 2100. We anchored there and
 were much relieved to hear the planes at 2300 hours. The
 night overcast and the sea was beginning to get rough but
 the occasional storm never broke and there was no difficulty
 in either the landing of the planes or the transfer of personnel
 and cargo. That was, of course, put off first, then followed
 by the two Catalinas and two pilots. I took McGarry and the
 maintenance people with me on the second Catalina.

The air trip was uneventful. We landed at Madras
 and then went on down to Colombo that afternoon.

In addition, it should be emphasized that the
 situation was made as comfortable as possible. The
 quarters were good although we had just one European style
 bathroom for three weeks. Breakfast and lunch consisted
 of rice and curry. The meal at night was always rice and
 curry with no kitchen at the palace so all of the food
 was brought in for the some fifteen people who always
 lived there. The situation was secure in itself and was probably
 the best we could have had. When I left, it was planned to move
 our headquarters as soon as possible.

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We had a big farewell dinner and at 8 o'clock the Colonel arrived to drive us to our new home. He was very proud because the Chief of Staff had lent him his car for this occasion. To get to our new place we had to go through part of the downtown district of Bangkok and while we were only half way there the horn on the car got stuck. The remainder of the journey was as secret as LaGuardia going to a fire. We tried to persuade the Colonel to stop and yank the wires out of the horn but he restricted his efforts to vocal hushings which were not effective. Nothing, however, occurred and we were lucky that the horn stopped just prior to our arrival at the new residence.

We inspected our new home and found it in complete contrast to our old one. We were actually in the palace of a former Regent and there was plenty of room. They gave John his own bedroom and sitting room and put Dick and me in a separate bedroom at the other end of the house.

Just prior to retirement, the Colonel asked us whether we would like to go for a ride. Not suspecting what was in store, we declined. As it turned out, it would have been far more than an ordinary ride. Apparently Ruth and the others felt that the lack of feminine companionship was partly responsible for John's condition. They had evacuated, at considerable expense, a residential section, rented a house, and ordered eight girls. Extra policemen were put on to insure complete secrecy. The Thais were so polite and so subtle that we missed this completely and only learned this two days before my departure. With some reluctance they admitted the total expense was in the neighborhood of 4,000 ticals.

Ruth came over to welcome us to our new home. One of the advantages of this new place is that it is two doors up the river from Ruth's residence. We could see a great deal

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more of Ruth than was possible formerly. Staying with us were Ben, Wyman, Poon, Pete, and Amney. The radio equipment was moved over and set up in a room which we used as a message center. Inasmuch as the place was so large, Ruth assured us that every night there would be a sufficient number of government callers to maintain the cover story that the residence was being reopened for a high government official. There were two policemen stationed at the gate and about six additional civilian guards inside the compound. Despite this, our own boys had to take turns pulling guard duty, but we hope this situation is remedied by now.

13 April. This was indeed Friday the 13th. Tawi brought news before breakfast of the President's death. It was a tremendous shock to all of us. He had heard the news on the 0645 San Francisco broadcast. We kept this news from John.

Further depressing news of a minor nature was a cable informing us that all our drops had been cancelled.

At 1200 Chan approached us on behalf of Ruth as to the feasibility of conferring a decoration upon John. He thought the decoration would show John that the Thai people appreciated his efforts and would relieve his worries on that score. We agreed although we realized that he was not authorized to accept such a decoration in war time.

At 1400, Ruth, accompanied by his Deputy Prime Minister and a high military officer, arrived for the presentation. It was held in a little waiting room and the ceremony went through without incident. Upon completion of the ceremony, John returned to his bedroom and, calling for Chan, gave him the decoration to hold for him until after the war. As far as he knows, this is still the arrangement. At night we met Betty for the first time. Ruth brought him over along with Nai Direk whom he termed as his "Prime Minister of the Underground." We had a two hour conference and felt that much was accomplished. Betty is a very small, lean man with extremely sharp features. At the beginning of the conference he explained that he could not speak English and would make his comments in Thai for Ruth to interpret. We later discovered that he spoke English well enough to make numerous corrections of Ruth's interpretations of his statements. When we called this to his attention he smiled and said "It is true I understand English but I cannot speak it."

The conference was concerned principally with air rescue and in expressing to Betty the appreciation of the air force for what he had done. He formally promised that McGarry would be delivered to us the following night.

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We questioned Nai Direk on his conference with the British in the Gardens. He stated that no formal proposal was made to the Thais and that British interests seemed to be confined to intelligence.

We finally got some sedatives for John and persuaded him to take some before retiring. Poon had to go into the Jap section of Bangkok and purchase the drugs on the Black Market.

14 April This was the day that John had his first violent attack. Enough details have been given elsewhere. From this day on he had from two to three such attacks and Ruth instructed that a doctor be constantly in attendance. This time he sent two excellent doctors, one of them a Cornell graduate. He made all of the usual laboratory tests and confirmed our growing belief that there was nothing organically wrong. Since John was suspicious of all Thais, Dick and I took turns staying with him during his waking hours.

At 1500, American and British Liberators came over and bombed for two hours. We could see the planes and the bombs falling very clearly. The Samsen power station was a mile up the river from our residence. We were all excited and spent most of the time taking pictures. We believe that this is what finally drove John completely off because he was never rational for more than two minutes a day thereafter.

Although at the time of the bombing we did not know what the targets were, we soon found out. That night there were no lights and, what was worse, no water. We immediately started boiling river water for drinking purposes.

About 2030, Ruth came over and inquired as to John's condition. About thirty minutes later, Betty arrived with McGarry. McGarry was so stunned at his release that he quite understandably did not say two words all evening. The first notion he had of what was going on was when he was delivered to us. He did not seem overjoyed and his first concern was for his fellow inmates, all of which we appreciated.

The fourth visitor that night was Luang Sinat, Thai Commander-in-Chief. Ruth had brought him over for a personal visit and no business was discussed on this evening except what to do with John. It was suggested by someone that he be placed in the hospital for the seven days that remained but Betty decisively vetoed this suggestion. It was agreed that the important thing was to keep him quiet and not attempt any sort of treatment.

15 April No improvement in John's condition. Most of the day was spent with the doctors, who had not yet started

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using injections. That night about 0200 he had another bad attack and it was at this time that they started forcibly using injections. Morphine and Luminol were the two most used. Ruth sent around a bottle of Thai whiskey just before suppertime and it was most welcome.

16 April This was the day we had a possibly serious breach of security. About 1400 John broke away from Dr. Chai and ran to the window in the bedroom which overlooked the street. He tried to climb out the window and yelled at Amney who was in the yard at the time. There were two people going by in the street at this time and we were unable to determine whether they had heard or seen anything. Betty assured us later that there would be no breach of security. What arrangements he made, we do not know. This was the first time we had to use a gag.

Known apparently to everybody but myself, this was Dick's birthday. The evening meal was unusually good with six quarts of Thai beer and four quarts of whiskey. There were about fifteen people present.

It had been a hard day so after listening to the radio for a few minutes we went to bed only to be awakened about fifteen minutes later with the news that Ruth had come for a visit. We went downstairs to the main living room and Ruth was there with a bottle of champagne. He wished Dick a very happy birthday and the three of us proceeded to sample his gift. This champagne was from French Indo-China and was highly prized.

17 April Met Tieng, Lao representative, who had arrived in Bangkok the day before. We discussed the "SLEEVE" drop and made the final arrangements. John was violent again on two occasions but this was the first and only night that he slept through without any disturbance.

18 April Radio communication seriously broke down at this point. Although Chan had taken the batteries over to the Signal Corps for charging, the apparatus was not properly geared for our batteries and they never lasted more than an hour.

At 1430 there was another air raid and although we could see the planes and hear the explosions, it was too far away for any photography. Both U.S. and British pamphlets were dropped but the Thai reaction was one of disappointment since one of the pamphlets had already been used before. We learned that Bangkok and Borneo Wharf had been badly damaged and that one American aircraft was lost at Ratburi. Unfortunately, all members of the crew were killed.

By this time the doctors were a little worried about

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us and suggested a boat ride on the river for relaxation. Ruth sent his sampan over and Dick, McGarry, Tawi, and I went down the river. The fires were still burning from the afternoon raid and we had hoped to go far enough down to examine the damage ourselves but the boat suddenly started leaking and we barely made the dock. D 075742

19 April Very few schedules today. We were now using the Dag which Major Compton had given us for our own amusement. Without that radio we would have been unable to receive any messages.

Ruth came over at night for a final conference. He brought with him three bottles of beer as a going away present. While we were visiting with Ruth, Betty arrived by car and joined the meeting. At all times Ruth seemed very anxious that we apportion part of our supplies to Betty. They left about 2200 and we assumed that this would be the farewell visit.

20 April Tieng, Chan, and Tawi came for a conference in the morning regarding the drops. Colonel Samroeng came about 11 bringing with him Wing Commander Tawi. We were very much impressed at this first meeting.

In the afternoon the doctors started a treatment which they had outlined for keeping John completely unconscious for twenty-four hours. It had apparently worked because at supper time he was sleeping soundly, but only apparently because in the middle of the meal he walked, John, completely dressed, asking us when we were leaving. For a minute he was clear and then trouble began again and we took him upstairs and gave him three more double doses.

Everyone we had met with the exception of Nai Direk arrived between the hours of 1900 and 2000 to see that everything went all right. The boat arrived about 9 but we could not leave until 2130 due to the tides. John was still conscious when he was taken to the launch but he made no noise. We left at 2130.

The launch was about 30 feet long and runs on a diesel engine on oil which was stolen from the Japs. It has a closed upper deck which makes a sort of cabin of the forward part of the boat. In this cabin are two wooden benches running parallel to the sides of the boat. There were twenty-four people on board the launch.

We passed the Borneo-Bangkok docks and the fires were still burning over a large area. Going through the Klong we were stuck three times but made the Gulf easily by morning.

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... out about four miles and anchored at some fishing
 ... during the day. At 1930 we made for the rendezvous
 ... there about 2100. We anchored there and
 ... relieved to hear the planes at 2300 hours. The
 ... and the sea was beginning to get rough but
 ... never broke and there was no difficulty
 ... the landing of the planes or the transfer of personnel
 ... of course, put off first, then followed
 ... and two pilots. I took McGarry and the
 ... with me on the second Catalina.

... trip was uneventful. We landed at Madras
 ... on down to Colombo that afternoon.

... it should be emphasized that the
 ... to make us comfortable. The
 ... although we had just one European style
 ... Breakfast and lunch consisted
 ... at night was always rice and
 ... at the palace so all of the food
 ... the some fifteen people who always
 ... in itself and was probably
 ... it was planned to move
 ... as soon as possible.

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