

Transkrip Arsip WO 203/2455 Laporan Lengkap Kapten Laughland (tertanggal 3 November 1945)

REPORT FROM CAPT. T.L. LAUGHLAND HQ 49 IND INF BDE

The Brigadier was away from HQ and Col. PUGH told Capt Smith and myself that we were to go out with the Indonesian leader; myself to the North of SOURABAYA and Capt SMITH to the South.

We left Bde HQ on about 4 - 4.30 hrs and went to the Government buildings. There we were joined by the Brigadier, Capt SHAW, FSS and the Indonesian Party Leaders. As there had been fighting in the International Bank Building, where the D Coy of the 6 MAHRATTAS were, the whole party went round there first. There no fighting was in progress at the time and the party leaders started explaining General HAWTHORN's agreement to the crowds.

Things went very well to begin with and the crowds were cheering "Merdeka". There was one man who was all against what the party leaders were saying. He was quietened by one of the party leaders and went off after having shaken everybody by the hand. During this time we heard firing near the draw-bridge. As things in the International Bank area seemed settled, we started off to the draw-bridge are. We started to drive away from the International Bank with the whole party. We got about 300 yards when we were stopped by the crowd.

The party leaders got out of their cars again and answered the crowd sho [who] were yelling and shouting. They, that is the crowd, wanted the company in the building to walk out without arms. They said the TKR would provide a guard over the arms; they would provide transport to move the company away and guarantee safe conduct.

The Brigadier refused, thinking if the Coy came out, they would certainly be massacred by the crowd. One man in particular did his best and succeeded in inflaming the mob with the result that the party leaders lost all control.

The three of us are quite certain that that man was a Japanese. By this time we all decided that we would never get away.

About 5 o'clock the Brigadier decided that the Coy should come out without arms as some of them might have a chance to escape. The crowd wanted to take one of us to the building to tell the Coy Commander the Brigadier's orders. The Brigadier said that the Coy Commander would not take orders from us as he was the Commanding Officer.

The crowd got hold of Capt Shaw and took him off to the building. The 3 of us remained by the car. They had taken away our arms except one sten magazine and one grenade, which I had in my pocket. Later they told us to get into the car and one of them saw the outline of my sten magazine, which was immediately removed. I patted my pockets and they did not see the grenade. In the car the Brigadier was in nearside, I was in the middle and Capt SMITH on the other side. I tried to put the grenade down the back of the seat, but could not do as they were looking in the windows.

One of the Indonesian leaders came back and said the Coy was coming out within 5 minutes. Soon after that firing broke out from both sides. We dived in the bottom of the car. One man fired 4 shots through the back, I asked Capt SMITH if he was all right and he said "Yes" and I told him that I had not been touched either. We asked the Brigadier if he was all right but he did not answer. After a few minutes he moved and asked us how we were. He had not been touched.

One of the shots had set the back seat alight. We managed to put that out without any difficulty.

We remained there for about two hours with the firing going on all that time. Then we heard men running around outside the car. Two men came up to the car, looked in the back and then they tried to push the car away. They could not do so and then we heard them opening the petrol tank at the back. We thought they were going to set fire to the car. Firing broke out again and they disappeared. They came back shortly afterwards and must have touched the Brigadier to see whether he was alive. He spoke to them and asked to be taken to either Mr SOEDERMAN, SOERIONO or any other party leader. He also explained that we were in a police car and had come to stop the fighting. The two men did not seem to know what to do and moved away from the car. They came back again and the Brigadier once more asked to be taken to one of the leaders.

Without any warning at all one of them fired his revolver at the Brigadier. He fell back in the seat with a loud groan and died within a few seconds. As far as I can remember the time of his death between 7.30 and 7.45. After this shot the two men ducked down behind the door as firing had again broken out.

While we had been sitting in the car during all the firing, I had given the grenade to Capt SMITH, who put it on the floor by his door. We knew the two men would be back for us, as they knew I was alive as I had spoken, but Capt SMITH had not moved at all. They pepped up at the window and fired a revolver at me. Simultaneously Capt SMITH threw the Grenade and firing broke out in the street, Capt SMITH and myself both discovered that we were still alive and he opened the door of the car. I had a very small flesh wound on my left shoulder.

We got out. Crawled behind the back wheel and then ran about 20 yards and jumped into the KALI MAS. The grenade as far as I know, went off, roughly level with window of the car. We are both sure that the two men were killed with the grenade, as no shot was fired by them after it had exploded.

When we left the car the back seat was on fire and we hoped that the car would go up in flames so that the Indonesians would not find the Brigadier's body. No shots were fired at us on our way to the River KALI MAS.

We swam across to the East bank and then started to move towards the docks where we knew there had been no fighting. After about one hour we ran into a ferry as there were lots of people moving about, sitting at the windows of their houses, smoking and talking.

While we were waiting there we only heard a few shot from the International Bank area. Further down the river, near the draw-bridge, there were a lot of native craft on fire and also two large warehouse fires on the other side of the river. The light of the fire was reflected by the smoke and the clouds on the river and we decided to wait till the fires died down. We were there roughly three hours and then decided to take a chance and move off down to the docks. We could not go on the dark side of the river as there were craft tied up alongside and people moving about. Just before the bridge we came to a brilliant stretch [stretch?] of the river directly opposite the fires. As we had got so far, we decided to go on. Just before the bridge a burning log had fallen in the water and tree trunks, bits of wood and boxes etc were piled round it, We decided to go underneath if possible. Capt SMITH got half out of the water, cleared a small patch and dived under. I dived under the burning wood and found there was not much room

underneath. I came back up again and as I came up somebody opened fire from the bridge. I went straight under again and managed to get through. As I came up I heard shots again, dived under and swam under the bridge. Capt SMITH joined me. We knew there had been heavy fighting by the bridge, but we did not know who actually held it. Capt SMITH said that he had been hit when we dived under the wood. It was only a flesh wound but on board ship he found that he had two minute grenade splinters in the back of his head.

We heard the mentalking [men talking] to themselves and recognised our own tps. We shouted out to them to stop firing, which they did immediately. They asked who we were and we said that we were two officers from the Bde. I thought C Coy 6 MAHRATTAS were in that area, so I asked them to bring Major REED or Capt BURNS, 2 of the Coy Officers. I told them my name and I belonged to that Bn. They told us to wait where we were and after a few minutes the Coy Commander, Major WILSON shouted out to us, recognised us and helped us out of the water. Later he asked us why we had not stopped when we had been challenged. We told him that we had heard nothing. We also found out that they had thrown a grenade at us when we did not stop. From there we were eventually taken on board HMS WAVENEY.

I heard afterwards that the Indonesian had tried to break into the Coy's building. Some of them managed to get inside and did also brought up two machine guns and placed them directly opposite the front door in the middle of the road. They were killed immediately by grenades that were dropped from the top of the building. The Coy also killed roughly 150 men. I don't know who actually fired the first shot.

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