

FIXED TEAM KAMPOT INVESTIGATION REPORT

CASE NUMBER: KAMPOT - 4 OF 1955

INTRODUCTION

1. (a) The case relates to the discovery of arms and ammunition by Khmer Army troops in the region of the Srok of Kompong Som-Loeu in the province of Kampot.
- (b) This case was entrusted to the Fixed Team, Kampot on 26th January, 1955, for investigation but due to lack of means of conveyance to this far-off region of Kampot province it was kept in abeyance till a warship was made available to the team on 1st March, 1955 to proceed to Sree-Umbell by sea, which was to be our advance base to carry out the investigation. The team consisting of Commander R.S.MALIA (India), Captain MALONE (Canada) and Captain KORPUS (Poland) and a team of five interpreters left Kampot on 1st March 1955 by sea and returned on 5th March, 1955.

THE JOURNEY

2. A brief description of the journey undertaken will not be out of place as it forms a most interesting as well as hazardous part of the operational account of this team which works both on land and at sea.

3. By sea

The first leg of the journey was 90 nautical miles through the Gulf of Siam on board the Royal Cambodian Naval Ship "L-Impeuteux". In the Bay of Kompong Som the team was off-loaded and boarded a L.C.M. craft provided by the French Navy based at Lem-Dem. It carried us through the approaches of Kompong Som Bay and up the river Sree-Umbell. It took three hours to reach the place as the safe navigation through the river depends on high tide.

By land

4. The team established a base at Sree-Umbell living in a straw hut and sleeping on bamboo sticks. This was the best that could be obtained.

5. The Rendezvous

The region of Kompong Som-Loeu was approached from there through 35 miles of arduous journey through thick jungle and mountains - about the first 10 miles on cycles and the rest carrying the cycles on shoulders, crossing 13 destroyed bridges and numerous streams.