



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia gifts Brunei Wartime Photos from 1945 on Remembrance Day

11 November 2025, Bandar Seri Begawan – The Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam gifted photographs from the 1945 Operation Oboe Allied military campaign to the Brunei Darussalam National Archives. The photo gifting ceremony was held at Brunei Energy Hub Dermaga Diraja, Bandar Seri Begawan on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2025.

2025 marks a significant milestone in Australia-Brunei relations, marking the 80th anniversary of Operation Oboe. The Allied military campaign played a pivotal role in the liberation of Borneo and laid the foundation for the close modern ties between the two nations.

The ceremony was officiated with the formal handover of the photo collection by His Excellency Michael Hoy, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam, to the Brunei Darussalam National Archives through Pengiran Haji Rosli bin Pengiran Haji Halus, Acting Director of Museums, and witnessed by the Guest of Honour, Yang Mulia Dr Siti Norkhalbi binti Haji Wahsalfelah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Culture), Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

During his opening remarks, High Commissioner Hoy highlighted, “This collection captures a key moment in Australia and Brunei Darussalam’s share history. The eyewitness photos give an immediate impression of the profound impact of the war and Operation Oboe on the local population and Australian soldiers. Through this gifting, Australia is honoured to contribute to Brunei’s preservation and understanding of its history.”

The photo collection was previously showed at the exhibition “*Saksi Sejarah – 80 Years On: Remembering Operation Oboe in Brunei’s History*” in June 2025, organised by the Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam.

As part of ongoing efforts to preserve and strengthen the documentation of Brunei Darussalam’s historical narrative and development, the gifting of this collection marks a meaningful contribution to the Brunei Darussalam National Archives. It enriches the nation’s archival holdings and documentary heritage, while also supporting research, education, and the promotion of historical awareness for future generations.

Images:

Image 1 – His Excellency Michael Hoy, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam delivering opening remarks.

Image 2 – (L to R) Pengiran Haji Rosli bin Pengiran Haji Halus, Acting Director of the Museums Department; Guest of Honor Yang Mulia Dr Siti Norkhalbi binti Haji Wahsalfelah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Culture), MCYS; His Excellency Michael Hoy, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Image 3 – Group photo from the Gifting Ceremony

Image 4 – His Excellency Michael Hoy, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam showing Guest of Honor Yang Mulia Dr Siti Norkhalbi binti Haji Wahsalfelah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Culture), MCYS the collection of photographs.

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