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BATTLE OF MANIPUR STORIES

for BRITISH & INDIAN UNITS

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MESSAGE from the B. G. S.

"You will never get a chap to fight, if he's got something on his mind"; so said "Dusty" Miller, famous boxer and Army trainer.

True for the Ring; far truer for the Big Ring we're in to-day.

To-day, YOU officers, British and Indian, are true trainers and YOURS is the task of taking those "somethings" off the mind of each soldier by understanding, by interest, by sympathy and by explanation.

The D. P. R. aims at providing YOU with the authentic material necessary to help YOU in YOUR task. More paper? Yes, but a crib to help you satisfy an eager examiner who seeks accurate knowledge and demands logical explanation.

LAP IT UP.
When their supply of hand grenades ran short a resourceful Eton schoolboy with a Reinforcement Camp made fresh ones hurl at from old cigarette tins to the Japs at Kanglatongbi, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Capt. (now Major) E.I. Hamilton Parkes, R.E., used nearly 50 'Players' tins with a large quantity of broken glass and gelignite to make his grenades which had a deadly effect on the Japs.

ends note: home address not available locally.
Carrying with them large quantities of ammunition, stores of nearly 2300 men and rations, a Reinforcement Camp moved within 24 hours to take up new defence positions nearly seven miles away at Kanglatongbi and within another 24 hours moved again to another position. Here they inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy who attacked them, writes an Indian Army Observer.

After keeping vigil every night for nearly a week and working throughout the day, Reinforcement Camp No. 20 at MS 110 received orders at 2200 hours on March 31 to move and take up new defence positions at Kanglatongbi nearly seven miles away. It was a pitch dark night and no lights could be used owing to the near proximity of the Japs. Working the whole night and the following day, British and Indian Sikhs, Mahrattas and Madrasis, assisted in evacuating nearly 150 tons of stores, reserve ration for 14 days for the 2300 men and large quantities of ammunition including 3000 3" mortar bombs and a quarter million rounds leaving nothing to the enemy. All bunkers and defensive positions were completely destroyed.

Within another 24 hours they had to move to new defensive positions where they were attacked by a strong force of the enemy. All combatants and non-combatants who normally compose a reinforcement camp where troops receive the final "battle course" before being sent to fighting units in the front line joined together and inflicted heavy casualties on the attacking enemy.

Major Norman Sinclair, 7th. Baluch, educated in Holland where he was working formerly in a steel firm and whose wife lives in Karachi, for the first time in action was in command of the SE sector of the box and inflicted large casualties on the enemy. He toned up and maintained the fire discipline at a high level after an initial bad start since most of the troops
were seeing action for the first time. In addition to organising and sending out patrols, Major Sinclair was the last man to leave the position when they later withdrew remaining behind to see that everything was scorched.

Lt. David (Sparkes) Calcutta, 18th. Frontier Force Rifles, of 93, Gypsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, and also a commando who took part in the Luftwaffe naval engagement, led a party of Mahrattas into the perimeters of the NW sector which the Japs attacked and killed nearly 20 of the enemy. Our tanks also accounted for a number of Japs. Finally he threw the enemy out capturing a Jap LMG and two swords covered with blood.

A few Japs foraging for food near the Engineers of Officers' Mess were killed and two more who were lurking near the BOR mess, one gave himself up and the other was killed later.
Mani: Indian Army Observer
Comilla: 31 May ’44
Sethuram

Story 3

How he and his men on three successively dark nights in response did not give away their position to the wiles of the Japs who came within 100 yards of his position only to move away in another direction to attack a different spot was the story related to me by Capt. G. Sethuram, 3rd, Madras Regiment, of Odayur village, Chidambaram taluk, South Arcot district, writes an Indian Army Observer. Capt. Sethuram graduated from the Presidency College, Madras.

On April 4, Capt. Sethuram was defending an I.G.H. area with 150 Madrasis, all reinforcements to the 3rd, Madras Regiment on their way to join their battalion. In the night after he had ordered his men to stand to, at about 0130 hours red tracers came in their direction from about 300 yards in the north, completely illuminating the dark sky. They kept quiet and for the three hours more flares appeared from every other direction. "This led me to believe that the enemy was all round us but since we had kept quiet they didn't spot us. The patrols I sent out at dawn could not find the enemy and they must have disappeared into the jungles."

The next night he and his men were defending the southern sector of the Garrison Engineer's area at Kanglatongbi when at about 0200 hours the Japs began their attack. Using a nullah in front of his position as a covered approach, the enemy, nearly a platoon strong, attacked from behind in small parties. The silence of the pitch dark night was disturbed by their 2" mortar fire and machine gun fire and their shouts which lasted the whole time. "We did not open fire as we could not see them. Since we were in bunkers and trenches their fire did not cause us any harm and as we kept quiet the Japs who came within 100 yards of us moved away to attack another position."

Again the next day when the enemy attacked his position early in the morning in pouring rain, Capt. Sethuram and his men had been standing to for the whole night. A party of 30 or 40 Japs approached from the nullah firing at random and on all sides. When the enemy came to within 100 yards of them, he and his men who had been quiet all the while were about to open up when they found that the enemy had once again disappeared.

ends.
A complete nonchalent indifference to enemy fire was shown by a Madrasi sepoy who went into deep slumber although Jap shells were bursting all around him, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Sepoy Boddy James Elliah of Mallipula St, Vizagapatam, was one of the 'bearers' serving in a reinforcement camp which was attacked by the enemy at Kanglatongbi. Not prepared to lose his sleep whatever the Japs might do, tying a piece of cloth round his head in typical Madrasi fashion and keeping his officer's loaded pistol close to him, Sepoy Elliah stretched himself and slept quietly for the whole night even though enemy shells and mortars were bursting only 20 yards from him.

Sepoy Elliah left his school to join the army and is a cheerful lad with always a smile on his face.

ends
Devotion to duty in the face of heavy enemy fire was the example set by a Madrasi lance-naiak of the Indian Signals and three of his men, writes an Indian Army Observer.

No. 1841 L/Naik V. Anthony, No. 12294 Signalman Faquir Mohd., No. 61568 Signalman Sanwar Shah and No. 56898 Shah Hussain were serving with a unit which was attacked by the Japs at Kanglatongbi early in April.

A telephone wire between one sub-sector HQ and the Box HQ was cut by fire from enemy guns and mortars. In the pitch darkness this lance-naiak and his men moving under shell fire from the enemy and feeling their way over the snapped wire, joined the cut pieces together again and established communication. They proceeded with their work undeterred even though shells were bursting all around and very close to them.

Reporting himself to his C.O., the lance-naiak told him that he and his men were prepared to go again in case of necessity but a second occasion never arose as the Japs were driven away.

Note: Their addresses are not available locally and may be had from their depot at Jubbulpore. They have been recommended for awards.
By deeds of personal valour and courageous leadership, Indian Officers, most of whom have come fresh from their colleges, are maintaining the great traditions of the Indian Army on the Imphal front.

Lt. Harpratap Singh, of a Cavalry regiment (the first Indian tank regiment to go into action in this theatre of war) of Daudpur, Ludhiana district, was leading a troop of tanks to clear a road-block on the Tiddim Road. While advancing with Gurkha infantry support, the enemy in entrenched positions attacked them and his troop came under heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Lt. Harpratap Singh brought down the enemy snipers in the trees and destroyed an enemy bunker. Some of the enemy who came close to his tank to dislocate the vision instruments were killed and enemy attempts to use anti-tank weapons were frustrated.

While withdrawing under orders because of increasing darkness of the night he and his troop were ambushed by a party of the enemy at a curve further down the road. They killed 15 Japs and rescued under heavy fire from the enemy two wounded Gurkhas who were lying right across the road.

When his troop went again the next day, the enemy had disappeared but had laid trees and other obstructions and mines on the road which they cleared and enabled our supply convoy to pass. They then relieved the troops who were held up by this road-block.

Lt. Harpratap Singh graduated from the Government College, Ludhiana.
The 24th of May witnessed a gallant young Sikh officer leading the Rajputs in a bayonet attack on a strong Jap position of Shinam on the feature Gibraltar on the Palel Road.

Lt. Diljit Singh Randhawa, 6th. Rajputana Rifles, of Chak No. 66/12L, district Montgomery, was in the forefront of the bayonet attack on the knife-edged ridge where the Japs were entrenched. The enemy were concentrating fire from their machine gun posts on the higher slopes of the ridge. The Rajputs who had to climb the slope suffered early casualties but Lt. Diljit Singh undaunted went ahead and when withing a couple of yards from an enemy LMG post he threw two hand grenades into it which killed two Japs. All the while he was covered by LMG fire from another section of the Rajputs from behind. Four Japs who came from his right to close-in on him were pinned down by the Rajput LMG and killed.

Very far ahead of his men, he advanced further. The next few moments were dramatic. He and a Jap were facing each other only a few yards between them. Their eyes gleaming they had a full measure of each other from top to toe. "It was a tense moment for me", said Lt. Diljit Singh describing the incident to me in the hospital where he is recovering from his wounds. "The Jap beckoned tome with his finger but I said 'Tauro', the next thing I did instinctively was to throw my remaining two hand grenades at him. I could not see the result as I was injured immediately but I am sure I did not miss the mark"

While having his field dressing, Lt. Diljit Singh requested his C.O. to send him again to have a crack at the Japs but it was not granted. However his men cleared the position of Japs and held it. In addition to large enemy casualties, part of the booty were two Jap LMGs.

Lt. Diljit Singh graduated from the Foreman Christian College Lahore.
Lt. General Slim, Army Commander, 14th Army, accompanied by the Commander of the famous 17th Indian Division visited a battlefield yesterday what was recently a battlefront where only a few weeks ago Indian troops had once again proved their superiority over the Japs.

During the period when a party of the enemy attacked our HQ of the 17th Indian Division, about 500 of them entrenching themselves in dug-outs and bunkers on the farther side of a pimple in front of one of our boxes on a neighbouring pimple began an attack on our positions. In a counter-attack launched by the 10th Baluch, 12th F.F.R., and 5th Mahrattas, the enemy positions were completely destroyed and nearly 150 Japs were killed.

The battle-scarred area bears evidence of the thoroughness with which our troops had razed the enemy positions to the ground. The remains of two Jap dead and one machine gun were still lying in the field.

ends
In the course of a visit to the Imphal front Lt. General Slim, Army Commander, 14th Army, saw yesterday what was recently a battlefield where only a few weeks ago Indian troops had once established their superiority over the Japs.

It was here that nearly 300 Japs had entrenched themselves in bunkers and dug-outs from where they attacked one of our defensive positions. In a counter-attack by our troops, they suffered large casualties including about 150 dead.

The battle-scarred area bears evidence of the thoroughness with which our troops had razed the enemy positions to the ground. The remains of two Jap dead and one machine gun were still lying in the field.
'Dr. Julu, D.S.O.' is a familiar figure in a CCS. on the Imphal front. He has been called 'D.S.O.' by his superiors and it stands for 'Dahi Cards, Supplying Officer.'

Dr. Julu prepares curds daily for his patients, sometimes even from tinned milk. In abdominal cases and surgical cases Julu's dahi is given to IORs on the recommendation of the surgical specialist. Dr. Julu is enthusiastic about introducing in his hospital a cup of buttermilk instead of tea.

'Dr. Julu' is short for Capt. K. J. Somayajulu, M.A.M.C., of Vizianagaram, and was practising in the Jeypore State.
Surprised by a guerilla platoon of the 14th Punjab Regiment, a withdrawing party of 50 Japs on the Kohima Road went back after being badly shaken, writes an Indian Army Observer.

While withdrawing north up the road this enemy party bumped in the darkness of the night into one of our forward positions a couple of days ago. Our troops opened fire immediately and scattered them. Next morning when a fighting patrol went to look for the result, they found them in a mullah below the road. Our troops engaged them and killed 14 besides wounding 20 more. The rest of the enemy fled leaving behind one LMG, one MMG, grenade dischargers, 75 mm shells and their wireless set and telephones.

The same Punjabi guerilla platoon killed another 10 Japs the next day in the same area who were also moving up the road.

ends
Drivers Story 11

Working right up to the front on the Tiddim Road, eight drivers of a G.P.T. company of the R.I.A.S.C., coming from different parts of India, saved all their vehicles from the enemy who were close on their heels even though their tyres were flat and their hydraulic brakes refused to work because of the damage due to enemy shelling.

Under the command of Lt. C.B. Karumbayya of Sidapur, Coorg and formerly of the Nizam State Railways, Secunderabad, these men showed devotion to duty removing as many vehicles as possible when one of our positions was being evacuated owing to heavy artillery and mortar fire from the enemy. It was a dark night and during a lull in the enemy firing these drivers started their vehicles but the fire opened up again as soon as the sound of starting reached them. Due to shelling tyres ran flat, hydraulic brakes refused to function and the engines would not start. Remaining cool and calm they succeeded in rescuing all the vehicles leaving none behind.

The drivers were: MTS 953447 Nk. Mahadev Shivtse of Bhaing, Satara District; MTS 929274 L/Mr. Shaker Hussain Khan, Deccani Muslim of Chilkalguda, Secunderabad; MTS 75620 Sepoy K. Bab John of Big Manjed St., Wallajapet, North Arcot district; MTS 929662 Sep, Baswenti Mahalik of Hukeri, Belgaum district; MTS 90008 Sepoy Hussain Khan Pathan of Upali Burj, Bijapur district; MTS 794464 Sepoy Gurpadappa Marbagi of Marbagi, district Bijapur and MTS 885474 Sepoy Vemani of Parakondlapalli, Anantapur district.

More strange was the adventure of their companion MTS 929024 Naik J. Jesuratnam of Thandlam, Chingleput district, who saved his vehicle with a resourceful memory. During the enemy shelling his radiator received damage incapacitating it. Having previously seen a damaged vehicle five miles behind on the road towards the enemy, he walked back alone and personally removing the radiator from the damaged vehicle, ran back with it to fit it to
his own vehicle which he drove back to safety. "I was really worried and nearly gave him up for lost when he suddenly turned up with a spare radiator", his C.O. said to me. "There was no more time except to smile because we understood him immediately and he had saved his vehicle and the ammunition it contained".
Dramatic amusement is provided by a Jap here and there to our troops who fight in the rains, knee deep in the slush and mud.

One unarmed Jap approached our post at Chothe in the Bishenpur area from the south with both his hands in the air. Losing his nerve at the last moment he tried to run away but he was shot and killed by our Gurkha troops.

ends
Nearly 95 dead Japs were counted in an attack by a party of 12th Frontier Force Regiment on a Jap convoy in the Iril Valley.

On 12th June, this convoy was approaching our positions from the west and was moving east. Our troops engaged them and our artillery inflicted considerable damage. After the attack, 95 dead Japs and 55 dead cattle were counted. 20 dead or wounded Japs were seen being carried away. One Jap, five horses and 15 cattle were captured.

The entire convoy is believed to have been either destroyed or dispersed.

ends
Begins quote he had his name written on it unquote. Our most forward troops in Shenam on the Tamu Road recently witnessed at close range one of our 25 pounders hit a Jap and immediately he was blown to pieces. The humour of the situation was not appreciated by our men one of whom exclaimed he had hit the enemy with him and was looking tired, worn out and hungry. He was very proud when he handed over his charge to the C.O.

Story 16

Begins Amidst enveloping monsoon clouds and 5200 feet above the roar of civilization, Shenam is the crowning glory of an ascent over hills where our troops are fighting the Japs. The road is the all-weather road from Imphal to Tamu via Palel.

The road twines in hair-pin bends every hundred yards and one false turn will send one's vehicle into the jungle-valleys below. Shenam itself experiences nearly 200 inches of rain annually and the ground due to the rains is very slippery.

Malta and Gibraltar are two the two highest peaks here which like their cousin in the Mediterranean are our corner-stones in this part of the world. They are also the two highest peaks here which like their cousin in the Mediterranean arc our corner-stones in this part of the world. They are people of the old heroic and Gurkhas and Rajputs are daily making history.
Begins A silent wooden board with the words 'Welcome to Gilliam Manor' at the entrance to an R.A.P. at the foot of Malta has a story to tell. It speaks about the fame that Cairo-born Neil Gilliam of a Field Ambulance has earned on these dizzy heights.

During an enemy attack on our positions on Scraggy he went right forward to the frontline to evacuate the wounded and when our communication between our most forward troops and our rear HQ failed he acted as a jeep despatch rider between them, all under very heavy fire from the enemy.

The wooden board has been put up by his admirers in the Field Ambulance. ends
The Green Diamond patrol renews its strike. (Battle sign of 10 Gurkhas)

Leading a three-man reconnaisance patrol in torrential rains on a dark night without the moon, Nk. (10065) Siriman Sunwar, 10th. Gurkhas, a Gurkha of East Nepal, laid a successful ambush on a Jap convoy on the Tamu Road behind the enemy lines—so far the farthest position that any of our patrols have reached on this road.

Working their way across waist-deep nullahs of running water the patrol penetrated behind the enemy lines and laid up two nights running at milestone 44 on the Tamu Road. On the second night (14 June) they ambushed an empty Jap convoy of five trucks. With their tommy guns they disemboweled the enemy convoy.

As the leading lorry came level with him the Naik opened fire at close range with his tommy gun and killed both the driver and the man sitting close to him. The other two Gurkha riflemen followed suit and opened fire on the second and third lorries and killed both the drivers. More Japs jumped out of the lorries at whom the Gurkhas threw grenades.

The Green Diamond patrol returned to the Battalion HQ with important information. The Naik had previously done an outstanding patrol previously on another part of the Imphal front.
Begins An offensive patrol of a battalion of 5th Gurkhas with the object of killing as many of the enemy as possible worked their way silently into enemy positions on Scragg and burst into a party of about 40 Japs.

On 17/18 June night, Naik (44094) Narbahadur Gurung in command and Naik (10200) Mabir Pun as second in command moving round the west flank of Scragg worked their way up to the extreme north of the hill. Keeping an LMG behind with one of the Gurkhas to attract the enemy fire the two Naiks slowly crept up to the skyline and behind the enemy sentry post. As they were moving further they heard snores from a bunker. Exactly locating the place from where the snores came and dug into the bunker right over that point. From the roof, they then dropped two grenades into the hole. Immediately cries of terror and pain and shrieks rent the air. One Jap who ran out of the bunker was hit by a grenade. In the confusion and in the thick darkness of the night more Japs came out of their bunkers and began to run helter skelter in terror. The noise was terrific. Those who went into the slit trenches were hit by more grenades thrown by the Naiks. By now they had hit two bunkers and an LMG

and throwing their last grenade, they collected the rest of their patrol and came back to the west side (our side) of Scragg, suffering no casualties.

The Gurkha Naiks threw in all 13 grenades killing at least 10 of the enemy and they noticed that the Jap sentries were slack.
An attack by a battalion of the 9th Jat Regiment was the beginning of the end of Jap domination on the Manipur Road. The objectives were the small hills "Pill" and "Liver" overlooking the Manipur Road about half a mile to the north of Safawanana from where the enemy had established a successful road-block. Once the Japs were driven away from these features it was quite clear that the opening of the Manipur Road was only a question of hours.

On the evening of 21st, a company of Jats attacked "Pill", the feature nearest to the road, preceded by a heavy artillery barrage and captured the feature without many casualties. "Liver" was attacked by a company of Muslim Rajputs (of the same battalion) from the east. Simultaneously a company of Punjabi Muslims of the same battalion attacked it from the west. Our company overpowered the enemy from the east was held up by strong enemy fire while the other company from the west got on to the lower slopes and consolidated their positions. It was raining hard and the terrain was difficult of movement. During the night there was a lot of enemy sniping and their guns were active but in the morning the Japs had disappeared from the feature. Nearly 50 Japs were killed and a large amount of enemy equipment was captured.

The Dogras who were the first troops to observe our troops approaching down the road from Imphal to Kohima had a much easier time and it was literally a walk-over. Flanking to the left of the road and moving in the hills they reached the approaching troops without encountering any opposition from the enemy.

"Burton Bridge" was the next point on the road where the Japs had a strong position to which the picturesque and the blooming wild roses all around still bears silent witness. It was here that a company of the Punjab Regiment cleared two road-blocks in which four Japs were killed and 10 wounded out of a platoon. When the company went forward they came under heavy fire. So they withdrew for the night (21st night) and when they advanced to the Bridge next morning they found that the Japs had disappeared, probably realizing the futility of further resistance on the Road.

On the 21st morning the same battalion of the 14th Punjab Regiment that recently took Mapau, two of their companies moving forward to lift the road-block at the 111 1/2 M.S., contacted the enemy on the feature known as "Patch". The enemy counter-attacked but were repulsed. 23 Japs were killed besides many more wounded. The enemy was then disengaged and we poured artillery fire on them which disorganized them. Immediately our troops started mopping up and killed 45 more Japs. A Jap battalion flag was part of the booty-captured. The last enemy cleared off early the next morning. Walking in the mud ankle deep and in pouring rain with leeches crawling on them, the Punjabis showed magnificent fighting spirit as they cleared the last road-block on the Road. During this action Havilder Puran Singh of Sohadan, Amabala District, averted by his prompt action what would otherwise have been any inconvenient situation to us. He saw a party of the enemy moving an MG towards a pill-box overlooking our troops. Rushing forward alone with his tommy-gun he occupied the pill-box before the enemy could reach it. He won his I.D.S.M. for gallant action at El Alamein. In this encounter he killed one Jap and his prompt action enabled our capturing this important feature "Patch".
With leeches clinging to him and mosquitoes biting him, Major R.A. Anthony of Berkhamstead, Hartfordshire, England, heard the news of the opening of the Second Front in Europe while sitting in a slit trench on the Manipur Road.

He heard the news on the telephone from his battalion H.Q.

Major Anthony was commanding a company of the 14th Punjab Regiment who were engaged in driving the Japs from the Road. They were sent behind enemy lines to cut their Ls of C. After a hard journey in torrents of rain through quite rough terrain where the steep slopes were slippery with the deep valley opening its mouth ready to receive any unfortunate, he and his company of Punjabi Muslims captured "Squeak Hill", a feature between two enemy positions.

Under constant sniping by day and counter-attacks at night they spent the next three days in slit trenches with water in it to nearly a foot's height. They had to sit in them and their only clothes were completely soaked wet making them suffer severely from cramp. Their rations were short but the leeches had plenty and were growing fond of the fighting blood. Mosquitoes were busy making their sharp painful injections on their unresisting victims. Even their living space was becoming restricted owing to the landslides caused by the heavy rains. The mud from the walls of the trenches were gradually burying them.

But what should come at the end of these three days of misery except the news that our forces have invaded Europe.

ends
Begins It would not stay in Jap's hands stop A brass tumbler (Drinking Vessel) belonging to an officer of an Indian State Forces regiment fighting on the Imphal front would not stay in captivity with the Japs and returned to our lines within twenty days.

While the officer was moving forward he had put the tumbler in a dump in the rear but a cook took it with him to the forward areas where the Japs seem to have stolen it during a battle. Successfully

When a battalion of the Indian State Forces regiment attacked Sakpao twenty days later, they found a tumbler on the person of a dead Jap officer. On identifying it with the aid of the number stamped on it they recognised it to be their own and from that day it adorns their mess table smiling on every visitor with its adventurous tale and quite joyous of its renewed freedom.

ends
Unique in their tactics, Rajendra Sikhs, a battalion of the 1st Patiala Regiment, are striking terror in the hearts of Japs on the Imphal front.

Their objective was a hill-feature south-east of Litang, a good observation-post nearly 4600 feet high and 15 miles across from where they were. The enemy 80 strong were well dug-in on this steep height isolated from all directions and there were no other heights nearby.

At ten O’clock during the day, Naik Mohender Singh, 11 years with the battalion and an experienced soldier, went with another naik and silently crept into the enemy positions. Staying there for four hours he heard them talk and after gauging their defences returned to his H.Q. He then volunteered to take a section into the midst of the enemy.

The same evening one of their companies went round to sit behind the enemy L of C next morning at the appointed time. Another company was sent at four O’clock in the morning to approach the enemy position from the north but still remained in hide till the signal was given to attack. When O.K. was heard from both companies before half past six, the Naik and his section slowly crept to the enemy position and lay in wait there.

Half an hour later, our company coming from the north started a vigorous attack and the enemy opened fire. As soon as the enemy opened fire the Naik and his section shouted ‘Sat Sri Akhal’ from the centre of the enemy position itself followed by the same war-cry by the attacking company. The enemy was confused, stopped fire and dispersed immediately leaving the feature to us. We captured the position without any casualties on our side while one Jap was killed besides many wounded. The enemy did not retreat by his L of C; otherwise he would have had a worse fate. They merely scattered themselves away.

ends
Beating off four successive heavy enemy attacks in one night a company of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles defending 4000 feet high "Sausage" on the Imphal-Ukhrul Road have earned hearty congratulations from the Corps Commander.

A company of them under A/Major James Braine Watson of 123, Bridge Road, East Molesey, Surrey, were defending this position which lies nearly five miles to the north-east of Yaingangpokpi and nearly 17 miles from Imphal.

The night of June 24/25 was a dark night when at about seven-thirty in the evening the Japs put in their first attack preceded by heavy 4" mortar barrage and 75 mm guns. Two companies of the enemy attacked our bunkers with LMGs, grenades and mortars to which we replied with LMGs and mortars. Beaten back they withdrew about 200 yards in all suffering nearly 20 casualties.

In another three hours they attacked again with the usual barrage preceding but yelling and shouting like wild animals and mad men. After quarter of an hour's fighting they were beaten back once again.

It was a pitch dark night and our men were fighting from trenches half filled with rain water. Meanwhile they collected their dead and after four hours they put in the third attack when a party of about 15 Japs broke into our perimeter through the wire. Two Japs were killed near one of our mortar positions and three more who approached our company H.Q. were shot down. The rest of the Japs fled.

Two hours later for the fourth time they attacked our perimeter position and did not press it in strength because they had suffered depletion in their numbers. In a fight lasting for about fifteen minutes our troops rushed at them with tommy-guns and bayonets and inflicted heavy casualties. They withdrew with a total of 110 casualties.

During this time another Jap company was digging in on the north side of the hill only 75 yards away from our wire. During the day there was heavy sniping and exchange of mortar. At ten in the morning a couple of platoons of Japs crept into within 400 yards of our position and started shelling us with mortar.
ans started shelling us with mortars. Within ten minutes our guns were ranged on them and knocked them off.

"Sausage" is a prominent feature with a bald patch on its top and when I saw it there was quiet on its summit but beyond on its northern slopes were the enemy who were being greeted with our 25 pounders.

Subedar Abdul Rauf of village Shadi Khel, Dt. Kohat, was second in command during these attacks when he showed complete disregard for his own personal safety and exposed himself to enemy fire as he went round encouraging his men. "The Japs were like madmen", he said. "Their behaviour looked like that -- one of them was clinging to one end of our mortars with a tight hold whom I had to shoot down. Another officer of theirs was running like a mad man all over the place whom also I had to shoot down. Our men are in good fighting spirit and the enemy is no match for them".

These men look like real jungle inhabitants in their jungle caps and this company has to its credit another beating that one of its guerilla platoons gave to the Japs only about a fortnight ago at Thawai five miles to the west of Yaingangpokpi when it attacked and inflicted large casualties on a company of the enemy. Major Watson and Subedar Abdul Rauf were leading the guerilla platoon.
"Little Mule, little man, little feet" is the song in a mule company on the road to Tamu.

The little mule affectionately known as "China" escaped from Burma and attached himself to a Naga pony and has never left him. He is only about nine hands in height and both he and his inseparable were caught by a muleteer in the thick jungles on the border of Burma. The muleteer is only four feet in height but army boots do not have the suit size to his little feet. All three can always be found together.

"China" is a kind of pet in the mule camp and roams as he likes but always with the Naga pony. He doesn't work but a willing follower.

ends
Just returned from a 24-hour patrol in the mountains, Risaldar Ghulam Mohideen, a Tiwana Punjabi Muslim of Mitha Tiwana, tehsil Khush Ab, district Shahpur, and troop commander in an Animal Transport Company could only have a shave and a cup of tea before he went on another errand—food and rations to our forward troops on the Tamu Road where he was caught between our fire and the enemy fire through an erring guide but delivered the goods all the same without any loss either to themselves or to the rations.

On the way with the rations from the supply point he and his troop were lost in the jungle. The guide did not remember the way and the destination was eight miles further away with a darkness setting in. As it was a dense forest they decided to camp there for the night. The guide was made prisoner for misleading. He chose for his camp a nullah a little away from the jungle. When he had moved 15 yards in the nullah, he saw cigarette sparks at a distance. Then he saw them moving in the grass. Scenting that it was the enemy he decided to move away from them with his precious cargo. As he was turning back the enemy fired at his company with mortar, bren and other guns. Covering his with bayonets in case of attack he proceeded further. He found that his company was being fired at even from the front. These were our own troops to whom he was carrying supplies but who mistook him and his men for the enemy because they were coming from the direction of the enemy positions.

Caught between two fires the Risaldar slowly extricated his company away from the area of fire but ten mule loads of ration fell off in the confusion. He delivered the rest of the rations to the unit and went back to fetch the fallen rations which he collected and delivered to another unit as per schedule.

On his way back he passed through the same nullah the next
morning where he rescued two of his mules which had fallen into the nullah the previous night. He found that the Japs had disappeared from there.

Risaldar Ghulam Mohideen has 25 years service and served in the last war with the Baluch Horse (37 Lancers) in Persia, France and Afghanistan and later in Waziristan with the 41 Camel (Government) Transport Company. "He is amazing", says his C.O. "The animals know him very well and he too understands them; otherwise he would not have risked to go and rescue the two fallen mules in the nullah."
In the course of a five-hour tour of the Imphal front, the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, visited several Indian and British units.


He also visited the 5th Indian Division whose Dogras, Punjabis and Jats recently cleared the Manipur Road of the Japs from the Imphal side. The Supremo was appreciative of the medals on the chest of Subedar-Major (Hony. Lt.) Sirdar Bahadur Badruddin, I.D.S.M., O.B.I., 2nd Punjab Regiment, of village Kaslian, district Jhelum, Punjab, while shaking hands with him.

At every place he visited the Supreme Commander told the officers and men that they have thoroughly earned the praise bestowed on them for their gallant show during all the time Imphal was besieged on land by the enemy who attacked with three Divisions but has been repulsed with quite heavy losses to himself.

ends
Within ten days of the opening of the Manipur Road by Indian and British troops, goods for civilian comforts have come down the road. The road has also been opened for civilian traffic now.

The needs of the Manipuris are very little. Cigarettes are essential equally for men and women and they are very often the humdrum token of friendship between our troops and the local population. A cigarette tin is commonly used as a measure here. One packet of cigarette used to cost nearly two rupees during the time when Imphal could be supplied by air only. Now it has come down to six annas a packet.

Salt, another essential commodity, at one time was being sold for 10 rupees per seer but now costs a little less than four rupees. The prices of soap, oil and vegetables have also become normal.

The Manipuri who has been quite cheerful during the last few months now rejoices as normal is being gradually restored in his land as the Japs are being driven away from the frontiers of India.

It was a strange coincidence--that as the road was being opened by our gallant troops, at the same hour the Maharajah of Manipur was leading his temple-gods in a procession with the same chantings, sounds of conchies and cymbals as is seen round a Hindu festival in India.

ends
Wading through waist-deep water Capt. S.V. Krishniah m.c. of Kovvur, West Godavari district, S. India, made his daily round of visits to patients' beds in a hospital on the Imphal front when the space between the different wards was flooded by the monsoon rains recently.

The next two days the water rose to about 15 feet and he had to do it on assault boats and rafts built with old petrol drums as floats. Meanwhile the Anti-Malaria unit of the hospital whose work of killing the mosquito larvae had been taken over by the floods, got busy and built a temporary bridge.

Serious cases for admission were brought in on assault boats and discharge cases comfortably sailed on the rafts. The hospital routine went on as usual during the time the floods lasted—immediate operations were carried out, incoming patients were admitted, daily doses of medicine and diet were not missed and they had their usual gramophone records too.

ends
Like a trout reaching out for its first may-fly, Captain Leslie Clements, I.E.M.E., of 63 Brunswick Place, Hove, Brighton, was recently rocketed out of a tank through the driver's hatch -- none the worse for it and with a smile over his strange experience.

Attached as L.A.D. to a cavalry unit, he had gone out to watch a battle near Kanglatongbi. He was asking for a job and quite suddenly he was led to rescue a tank banked up in a nullah by the driver who had lost his direction.

When Capt. Clements was driving back the tank to the rear, about 30 yards from the nullah he heard a terrific explosion and the next moment he saw himself flung out of the tank.

The tank had run over a mine -- the only mine in the area.
As early as April 1942 a battalion of the 1st Patiala Regiment came to the Manipur region of the Indo-Burma border and have remained here. They know intimately every part of this terrain up to and beyond the Chindwin. They have traversed nearly 7000 miles across dense jungles and marshy plains, both in the heat of summer, in the monsoon rains and in the biting cold of the winter, clothes soaked in perspiration and drenched in the torrential rains, leeches sticking to their bodies and mosquitoes swarming around their faces and arms and for nearly four months in a year their dry skins covered with bleeding blisters.

They are the oldest battalion in the Patiala State and are known as "Rajendra Sikhs" after the name of the grandfather of the present Maharajah. More than three centuries back a lady of the name of Bibi Sahib led them victorious in battles. With the British they have fought in the Gurkha War, in the Afghan War of 1878, in the Great War in Egypt, Gallipoli and Palestine. In the last battle against the Turks they were part of the brigade which captured 14,000 Turks. Since 1940 they have been in Wazirstan and in the Tappi, Ahmed Khel and Toda China operations.

For their conspicuous good work they earned congratulations from their Corps Commander within six months of their arrival on this front. Appreciating their soldierly bearing, turn-out, discipline and physique as a model, their Divisional Commander wrote to them: "You have met the enemy face to face and have inflicted on him casualties greater than those which you yourselves have suffered and in short you have established over him that moral superiority which is so essential in winning battles".

Their first job was quite a big one. As the Burma Army came out they advanced into Burma under the most unfavourable conditions. It was the peak of the monsoon, personal hardship was great with uncertain communications and continually reduced rations. Besides manning for posts, they sent out constant patrols involving long marches, crossing rivers in spate and sleeping in the damp jungle.
About this time it was felt that a spectacular patrol into Burma by our troops was essential and the Patialas were chosen to do it. Early in September 1942 they set out on a 361 mile patrol into Burma, proceeding south from Shenam via Hiangzaung, Kabaw Valley, Yazagyo and coming back north via Manbi. With 88 miles through virgin jungle it took them only 21 days under the most trying weather conditions. Their ten days emergency rations sufficed them for 16 days. Only four of them went sick. They had no transport and carried their rations and ammunition themselves.

The party avoided visiting villages as it was essential that the enemy should not know of their movements. But at one place in the Chin Hills a few boys had seen them and informed their elders. Anxious to see that the villagers did not form the idea that a body of troops were moving in their vicinity, the C.O. of the Patialas hit upon an idea. He went straight to the village headman, an ex-Chin Levy Jemadar, with only a few others and pretending as a Survey Officer asked him for maps of the area. He even promised to repair the bad roads on behalf of the government.

During this time they met the Collector of the area who sticking to his post was cut off from the rest of the world and helped him to obtain supplies. Also they made a daring improvisation to cross rivers in floods. Harnessing the force of the stream, they clung to a log tied to a rope whose other end was fastened to a tree, and swung into the floods from a bend on the bank further up the river.

Between April and November 1942 holding nearly 50 miles of the front from Mintha and Minthami, they stood as a bulwark against the Jap hordes advancing into India and helped thousands of Indian refugees to get across. After a few months rest they advanced again, late in January 1943, and taking up positions on the west bank of the Chindwin, made some daring raids across the river. One of these was a raid on an important enemy base by only one company. The Japs were fooled by demonstrations ten miles in rear while this company secured this strong enemy military and civil centre. The Japs left the town without offering much resistance and Jap ammunition, a V.C.O., POW left by the Japs in a hurry, Indian refugees, Burmese nurses, Persians and Egyptian Jews were all sent under escort to India. The Patialas went a further 30 miles east into Jap territory to harass his communications before returning to the Chindwin leaving permanent patrol bases two days' march east of the river.
In the beginning of February 1943, this battalion played a notable role in helping Wingate's party to cross the Chindwin and when they returned two months later, they covered the party's recrossing into India. In order to release pressure on the party, the Patialas during the two months attracted the enemy's attention. After a small clash they occupied the enemy's Kaungkasi HQ. Using deceptive tactics they played blind man's bluff with nearly a combined force of about 1000 Japs with the result that the enemy pressure on the main body of the returning forces of Wingate was relieved.

Chindwin became the host-club of these Sikhs who spent three months on her banks. So cordial were their relations with the local population that distant bazaars from across the river drifted to sell to the Patialas. Even civil affairs came to them for arbitration, one being a case of the eternal triangle. The Sikhs in their turn visited the Buddhist shrines with flowers.

Once again they were chosen to help the Wingate forces. In March 1944, preparatory to Wingate's air-borne invasion of Burma, the Patialas made feint crossings of the Chindwin in force in order to draw the enemy away from Wingate's landing ground 200 miles behind the Japs.

The rest of their story belongs to recent months. First engagement of the season was when they went in support of the tanks to a place 18 miles south of Tamu where they gave a good beating to the enemy. This was in March and early in April, sent to cut the Jap LOC between Ukhral and the Kabaw Valley, they reached their destination without being seen by the enemy and kept it cut for ten days so that the enemy was forced to change his LOC. In the middle of May they were clearing enemy position to the north and east of Shenam and harassing the Jap LOC. On one raid a bridge and much enemy MT were destroyed including many Jap killed.

In the last week of May they captured an important hill feature, without much ado. One company went in to make a feke attack, another sat on the enemy's LOC while a section crept into the heart of the enemy and shouted 'Sat Sri Akhal!'. Simultaneously the "attacking" company made the same war-cry and wrought such confusion among the enemy that they dispersed, leaving the feature.

I have seen the Patialas both in action on the field and while...
they were at rest entertaining themselves in a Punjabi nautch-party—some of the jawans dressing themselves as dancing-girls were throwing away kisses all around. They make one realise that India possesses such fine types of fighting men and that the Indian Army, as in the Middle East and Italy, is here also establishing a heroic name for itself in the history of the war.

ends
Moving in waist-deep flooding water and the slush and mud underneath catching his feet in tight holds, former London University student Capt. Donald Bishop, of 87, Mantilla Rd, Tooting, London, SW 17, lent a helping hand to Indian Pioneers as they were rolling petrol drums across nearly 800 yards of paddy fields under water in order to put them into lorries waiting on the road.

The monsoon rains had flooded the petrol depot and the surrounding area and the Pioneers by this effort of their almost under impossible conditions kept up the supply of nearly 5000 gallons of petrol to our most forward troops on the Imphal front.

ends
Troops of the 33 Corps have cleared one more road of the Japs—the 44 mile long road from Imphal to Ukhrul in the north-west. While the Kohima-Imphal Road was the supply road from India to Manipur, the Ukhrul Road is the exit for the Japs from the frontiers of India.

Ukhrul and the surrounding important features are now in our hands. After a tough battle on the 8th., the 12th. Frontier Force Regiment have occupied Chepu in which as nearly as 84 Japs were killed and a number of POWs were captured. 2/11 Siibs who have been honoured recently with a V.C. in the person of Naik Nand Singh, after a vigorous march along the hills to the west of the Ukhrul Road during which they killed many hundreds of Japs, have occupied Shangshak on the east side of the road. They cut across the road a few miles south of Ukhrul and proceeding via Lungshong reached Shangshak today. For quite a long time they have been supplied by air. 

Nearly as many as 300 Japs have now been trapped to the west of the road.
Indian and British troops of the 5th Indian Division have cleared the 130 mile-long "Silchar Track" from Imphal to Silchar. The track is now clear of the Japs on both its sides.

Rajputs who fought well at Kohima, Punjabis and Dogras fresh from their battles at the south-end of the Imphal-Kohima Road, fighting alongside with equally famed British troops, cleared the "track" in less than three weeks.

It will not be long before convoys to Imphal come on this track. The Royal Engineers are sweeping the track for mines and the surface of the track is being reconditioned to make it suitable for the convoys to come through inspite of the monsoon.

To the Manipuri the track means much as it will bring him plenty of his betel-nuts and fruits during winter. Once more coolies will run in relays of 16 miles on Silkhat carrying the betel-nuts and fruits in baskets swung on their backs. Originally only a bridal path the Army Engineers have made it a jeepable track and probably in the future a pucca metal road. Besides other things the Army has definitely improved the road-communications in these plains surrounded by high hills and dense forests.

Since the opening of the vital Imphal-Kohima Road, operations on this front have been at an accelerated pace. Within three weeks the road to Ukhrul has been cleared closely followed by the clearance of Japs on the Silchar track. Of late it has been noticed that the Japs have even walked out of important positions without even offering a shadow of resistance inspite of the orders of the Day of their Commanders bidding them to capture Imphal. The famished, starved and stricken Jap knows that their hopes will prove futile and none better than a wild goose chase. There are also indications that his mind is afflicted by the doubt that he will never be able to recross the Chindwin to reach his dear ones at home. But our swift steam-roller moves and will move on till the last Jap on Indian soil is mowed down. What surprises the 4th Army have during the coming weeks for the Japs is well worth watching.
Wounded mortally with both his legs broken, Driver No. 4558 Sowar Sher Zeman of an Indian Tank Brigade and of village Mitial, Cambellpore district, displayed a very high standard of courage and fortitude when in a dying condition he assisted his comrades with covering fire in their efforts to preserve the tank from total destruction.

In the middle of April on the Ukhrul Road his tank came under heavy mortar and small arms fire from the enemy which blew off track of the tank and wounded him. Both his legs were badly broken by a heavy mortar came through the plate right above his knee.

The rest of the crew evacuated the tank and put out the flames with the small fire extinguisher and earth. During this time Sher Zeman inspite of his desperate condition and unaided provided covering fire for them. With both his legs in a broken condition how he managed to fire two bursts from the 37 mm and several from the Co-ax Browning is still a wonder to the crew.

After the fire had been put out the enemy fire became intense and the crew were compelled to take cover in a nullah. Meanwhile Sher Zeman climbed out of the tank and expired on the ground near his tank a few minutes later.

To save one's tank is one of the highest codes of honour in any tank regiment and Sher Zeman even while dying saved his tank. His gallantry augurs well for the future of the first Indian Tank Brigade to go into action.
Unable to extricate itself from a steep sided and blind nullah into which a tank had fallen, its crew were rescued by a Senior Risaldar, its troop leader.

In the middle of May near Kanglatoingbi whilst moving in support of the Infantry, owing to the density of the jungle the tank troop on the left became separated from the accompanying infantry. The right hand tank of this troop, plying its way through the jungle fell into a blind and steep sided nullah from which it was unable to extricate itself.

The commander of this fallen tank signalled to his troop leader on the wireless saying that his tank was out of action. The troop leader asked him to give his position. But this was difficult owing to the sameness of the jungle and the lack of landmarks. The troop leader ordered his remaining tank (a troop consists of three including the leader) to cover him, went forward to locate the stuck tank. Owing to enemy snipers and enemy LMG fire, the crew of the stuck tank were unable to bale out.

However, the troop leader directed by wireless and very lights reached within 50 yards of the tank in distress. After nearly four hours, the commander of the stuck tank sent out his gunner to contact the troop leader in the manner of Noah sending out a pigeon from the Ark. After locating the troop leader, the gunner came back to show the rest of the crew the route. Having disabled the tank and removing the guns, the Noah and his crew assisted by the pigeon made a dash for the Risaldar and got into his tank without any mishap.

They returned to the base under cover of the same third tank who had the pleasure of seeing a Jap sniper fall out of a tree with the 'tap' of a cocoanut when one of its Browning gave a burst.

ends
After losing 18 of their men when their stock of grenades and rounds of ammunition were exhausted, the Japs began to throw mud and stones at a company of the 1st Punjab Regiment who drove them out of an important ridge south of the Silchar track and captured it.

Nearly 3700 feet in altitude, this bare ridge is about three miles to the south-west of Bishenpur and overlooking the surrounding country.

The Japs had dug themselves in on its rear slopes. Preceded by an artillery barrage, one section of our company climbed up and finding the sentry-post empty occupied it. Then the enemy opened fire but within a short time his stock of grenades and rounds of ammunition were exhausted and 18 of his men were killed. In utter despair, he started throwing stones and mud at our Punjabis who rushed up and captured the ridge. About 10 of the enemy who attempted to break away down south through a nullah were wounded by our fire.

One Jap LMG and one gren discharger were captured. The Punjabis did not suffer any casualties.

ends
Ahead of his men in a bayonet charge on a strongly-held enemy position, Jemadar Sattar Khan, 12 F.F.R., of village Shakrdhara, district Kohat, N.W.F.P., engaged a Jap officer in a hand-to-hand scuffle and while on the point of vanquishing him was mortally wounded by a grenade with which the Jap Officer killed himself.

It was a misty day when a company of the 12th F.F.R. led a bayonet-charge on a steep and barren hill north-west of Bishenpur. Though there was our artillery barrage prior to that, because of the poor visibility our attack completely surprised the enemy, who were strongly entrenched on its crest and further slopes.

When our company was quite close the enemy started firing their mortars and shells. But thisundaunted Jemadar went ahead of the company and was the first to reach the crest where he grappled a Jap officer who unable to rescue himself from the hold of the V.C.O. threw one of his own grenades at himself which killed both of them. Only two weeks earlier Jemadar Sattar Khan while on patrol had killed 12 Japs and captured one enemy LMG.

The Japs lost the position but counter-attacked the same night when they came within three yards of our forward line on the crest but were driven off by our grenades. 32 Jap dead were counted in the morning.

ends
Eating grass from his mess tin which was filled with it, a famished, starving and sick Jap would not surrender himself and he had to be killed when recently near Sokpa near 300 Japs faced annihilation from our men of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles and 10th Gurkha Rifles who had surrounded them.

This Jap soldier was disturbed while eating his grass-lunch by Havildar Baggi Ram, 13th Frontier Force Rifles, of village Chadial, tehsil Palanpur, district Kangra. He was asked to surrender and he replied with a grenade which wounded himself. The Havildar advanced but the Jap threw another grenade at him which Baggi Ram dodged. Now a mortal stab from the bayonet of the Havildar was the end of the Jap.

During the last eight months not a single day has passed without this battalion of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles contacting the enemy either by patrol or by attack.

ends
Advancing to within twenty yards of a Jap officer, Naik Lakhalman Shinde, 5th Marattas of Ratnagiri district, Bombay Presidency, had a good measure of him with his Maratta quickness and gave him a burst with his LMG which blew the Jap officer to pieces. The Jap officer who was holding up our advance by throwing grenades at our troops from a height. He also silenced two enemy LMGs which were firing down a spur were harassing our men.

Early in July, this N.C.O.'s platoon was held up within 100 yards of its objective at Kumbi (four miles east of Palel) by heavy fire from two enemy LMGs firing down the spur up which the Marattas were advancing. Our advance was also held up by a Jap officer throwing grenades down the spur. Naik Lakhalman Shinde's platoon suffered several casualties including the Nos. 1 & 2 of the Bren gun.

At this critical moment, this Maratta naik on his own personal initiative showed complete indifference to danger as he advanced at the head of his section slinging his TG and picking up his LMG. He crept round to a flank and getting to within 20 yards of the enemy LMGs, knocked them both out and killed the Jap officer. His prompt and quick action enabled his platoon to advance and capture the objective.

ends
How a recce patrol of the 3rd Madras Regiment successfully attacked a Jap party more than twice its strength near the Ukhrul Road in the middle of July was narrated to me by Naik Kuttiya Pillai of Oomarikottai village, Tinnevelly district, Madras Province. Out of the Jap party of 25, 10 were killed besides many more wounded and important identifications in addition to two swords belonging to Jap officers were obtained.

Forcing their way through thick jungle and scaling steep hills on hands and knees, the patrol first sighted two of the enemy on a jungle path. Fire was opened on them but the Japs managed to escape into the jungle. The patrol followed them and their leading man Naik Kuttiya Pillai saw a party of 25 Japs hiding in a nullah nearby. Deciding to attack they closed in on the enemy from all around. Within a few minutes the Japs bolted leaving at least ten dead.

Havildar Ravunni Nayar of Edakkulam, Ponnani Taluk, South Malabar, climbed down the nullah to make sure that all the enemy were dead. But a Jap officer who was there threw a grenade at him but the Havildar escaped and the grenade burst close to the Jap officer himself and killed him.

ends
Mani: Indian Army Observer
Road to Tamu: 31 July '44
Indian Troops

As Patialas, Punjabis, Maharattas and Rajputs push along the road to Tamu, the Japs are fleeing in great hurry into the yawning mouth of the Valley of Death -- the Kabaw Valley.

Our troops are fighting under the most difficult conditions. The roads are rivers of mud, their way lies through jungles of steep ravines and swift-flowing nullahs. The rain beats constantly and thick mists envelop their surroundings. Frequent landslides suddenly stop their progress. For some days most of them had no time to rest and have been sleeping as they stood in the knee-deep slush.

All along the road to Tamu one can see signs of the hurried exit of the Japs. Paddy is growing on their rice-bags which they have left behind. Ammunition, rations, staff-cars, trucks and pack-saddles are lying all along the road inviting every souvenir enthusiast.

The Patialas flanking to the north-east of the road and the Maharattas fighting all the way from Sita in the jungles met at Lokchao Bridge on the 73 m.s. The Patialas "boxed" the enemy near Chimol and went to the rear of his gun positions and forward troops without his knowledge and completely surprised him at Ralph Hill. The Japs knew of their presence only when they were 250 yards ahead and opened fire. Our troops had no supporting arms nor mortars. Our wireless went out of order and bugles were used for communication and our foremost company commander sounded two Gs as soon as he had taken Ralph Hill. At the end of the battle the Patialas counted 63 Jap dead (the enemy was 200 strong) and four prisoners were taken besides a dozen MT, lots of wireless equipment, maps and documents. Part of the booty was a ribbon of the Order of the Rising Sun belonging to a Jap general who seems to have left his kit behind in a hurry. Since the position we had taken overlooked their guns, the enemy was anxious to pull out and one platoon of the Patialas were sent forward to put a road-block on their retreat. This platoon caught the enemy battery escorted by a company withdrawing hastily, which they shot effectively. Two medium guns and one anti-tank gun were captured from the enemy who also left behind in a hurry vital parts of several other guns.

ends
Feeding our troops pushing the Japs to Tamu is one of the oldest GPT companies in this area. This RIASC unit carries rations, petrol and ammunition to our most forward troops along the Tamu Road with its hair-pin bends, steep slopes and muddy and slushy pits. One false turn will send a vehicle down the deep valleys with dense forests to escape from which will be a dire struggle with death.

They have been on the road night and day for the last 14 days with an average of nearly 130 vehicles a day which include three tonners, 15 cwt jeeps and jeeps. Mines are the nightmare of drivers on this road and the feeding tracks.

Recently Sepoy Mahmud Khan of village Kheda Afghani, district Shahranpur, a jeep-driver in this company was running his jeep-ambulance down the Sita track with two seriously-wounded and four sitting casualties when his jeep was blown up by a land-mine left by the retreating Japs. Under enemy sniping, this sepoy driver took the casualties under cover and placing them under the protection of muleteer ran three miles and fetched another ambulance by which he cleared the casualties. By his courage, promptness and quick action he had saved the lives of the seriously wounded casualties.
Describing it as a stout performance the O.C. of a battalion of the 3rd Madras Regiment related to me how a three man patrol of Madrasis dispersed a party of 15 Japs killing two of them in the dense jungles to the north of Imphal.

Lance-Naik Krishna Reddy of Kanipakkapatnam village, Chittoor district, Madras Province, while leading the two other men along a jungle-path noticed a party of 15 Japs of whom one was in the act of throwing a grenade. The grenade burst wounded the N.C.O., and another slightly but undeterred the N.C.O. gave the Japs a well-aimed burst from his TG killing two of the enemy and making the rest flee.

ends
Working all night an Indian Recovery Company on the Tamu Road transported a gradient of one in two a battery of 25 pounders and two mediums along with their towing vehicles. These guns were necessary immediately to pound the retreating Japs fighting a rearguard action and the regular road at this point had become unfit due to the heaviest landslide known on this road in recent years.

The battery took them eight hours and the mediums another three hours. The carrier of the first gun skidded on the muddy slope and somersaulted but landed safely on its feet 250 yards below.

ends
Commanding a battalion of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment on the Imphal front, Lt. Col. Navin Chandra Rawley is the first Indian volunteer to command a battalion of the Indian Army on the field. Only 24 years old, he left his studies at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, in May 1941 to take up a commission.

Lt. Col. Rawley won his M.C. in the siege of Kohima when as a malarial patient in the hospital he found himself suddenly forced due to the emergency to assume command of a mixed force of sappers, transport personnel and B.O.R.G. This was his first command and won him the M.C.

From Murree, Rawalpindi district, his father is Dr. Ratan Chander Rawley, a former Director of Industries of the Punjab Government and Kashmir. Lt. Col. Rawley had his early education in the Bishop Cotton School, Simla.

"My happiest days were when we were on the banks of the Chindwin", he told me. "I was then leading my company in patrols 30 miles behind the forward posts of the Japs across the river".

ends
Two Madrasi signallers operating with a battalion of Mahrattas displayed a high standard of personal courage and devotion to duty when their position came under very heavy fire from the enemy recently in the jungles to the east of the Tamu Road.

Sig. P. Mathew of Naidupalayam, Mêllore district, and Sig. C. Yakub of Thirikattiyyeri, South Malabar, both of the Indian Signal Corps, were working with this battalion on the 26th July when the Japs put in an attack on our position. Their wireless equipment came under very heavy direct machine-gun fire from the Japs and some parts of it were damaged too. With characteristic coolness both the Signallers maintained communication with the brigade HQ for the entire five hours during which the attack lasted.

"They have shown similar courage and outstanding efficiency on previous occasions too", said the C.O. of the Mahratta battalion to me. ends
Jemadar Uday Prakash Misra of Hasangunj, Hasangunj, Lucknow, and of the Bengal Sappers and Miners displayed complete indifference to enemy fire and with great coolness and calm carried out his task of laying a road-block with mines and tar barrels on the Jap LOC on Tamu Road.

On 26 July at M.S.61 Jemadar Misra’s Indian Field Company were engaged in the task of establishing a road-block with mines and tar barrels when they came under enemy fire. Though wounded twice this Jemadar would not go back without finishing his job.

When he had gone a little to the rear and turned back to have a look, he was completely satisfied as he saw his mines blowing two up enemy vehicles.

ends
Rallying his men when his company commander as well as the company officer were killed, Subedar Kagir Khan, a Pathan Khatak Sagai of village Girdi, district Campbellore, bayoneted his way through the enemy and recovered the crest of a hill overlooking Jap positions at Chepu to the west of the 23 M.S. on the Ukhru Road.

On 8th July a battalion of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment were holding this crest when they were heavily attacked by a superior force of the enemy. When his company commander as well as the other officer were killed, knowing it was essential to recover the crest, this V.C.O. rallying his company led them in a bayonet charge up the slopes of the hill which lasted for 20 minutes. Shouting "Pathanoki Bachho" and yelling the Pathan's war-cry: "Moro Nara Haideri Yeh Ali- Nara Takhbir", he made a spectacular pierce through the enemy which so completely astounded them that they dispersed after heavy losses leaving the crest to Subedar Kagir Khan.

The whole battle lasted nearly 36 hours in which this battalion proved itself much superior to the enemy.
Thrice wounded and with only six men left in his platoon, a young Pathan officer would not allow himself to be evacuated till he had captured the objective.

Lt. Amir Mohd. Khan, 12th Frontier Force Regiment, of village Teri, district Kohat, was platoon commander in a company of the battalion which was asked to attack an important village occupied by the enemy near Burri Bazaar. It was during the last week of May when the enemy was very near to the heart of Imphal. This enemy village overlooked our LOC.

Early in the attack owing to very heavy enemy fire, his company was held up and the company commander was wounded. He took over and was wounded immediately. As the rest of the company was held up he took forward one platoon which suffered heavily and reached his objective with only six men by which time he was wounded twice again. He would not allow himself to be evacuated till he had established the position and allowed more of our troops to pass ahead of the position.

Earlier he had laid two successful ambushes on the enemy LOC near Phalbung to the east of the Tamu Road. Taking a platoon of Pathans, on the first occasion he damaged two enemy MTs and inflicted 27 casualties without loss to themselves and on the second occasion, which was a week later, he killed two Jap officers and 27 others also with no loss to themselves this time also.
Seyyid Gharibullah, 12th Frontier Force Regiment, and Yusuf Zai of village Lahore, district Mardan, held a two-section front himself during the heavy fighting at Chepu when all the rest were either killed or wounded. Firing from the hip with his Bren, he was standing in the tall grass in full view of the enemy and maintained fire even though he was wounded. By his action he held the left flank of our advance.

ends
Carrying out a daring daylight recce right in the heart of enemy positions, a naik of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment brought back valuable information regarding enemy dispositions which enabled us to capture the village of Sirudhong in the Iril Valley in the middle of June.

Naik Dilbarar Singh, a Jat Sikh of village Kaleke, Patiala State, sent forward to recce the village in daytime and seeing that he could not take the whole of his section, crept forward alone past the enemy sentries and forward posts. On reaching a church with stealthy steps, he slowly opened a window and found inside a party of about 30 Japs gossiping over their cups of tea. The famished Japs could not see the fresh light entering their room but they certainly saw the two grenades coming for them which Naik Dilbarar Singh had quietly dropped in their midst.

The Sikh N.C.O. did not wait to see the result but ran back unobserved with very useful information regarding enemy dispositions which proved valuable in the successful attack that followed immediately.
Duty

With a high sense of duty, a Dogra Rajput sepoy though wounded seriously would not go to the RAP but under heavy fire carried ammunition to the frontline troops when he was evacuated owing to the loss of blood. As soon as he had recovered he made hot tea and carrying it under fire to the forward troops moved in the area serving the tea.

Sepoy Dhinaram, a Dogra Rajput of village Ladha, district Udhampur, Punjab, when his platoon of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment was heavily attacked by the enemy at Chepu early in July, noticing a Jap LMG causing heavy casualties and holding our advance, the sepoy rushed at it and from a distance of 20 yards charged with his own LMG which killed the crew of the enemy LMG and silenced it. While coming back he saw an enemy sniper on a tree and gave him a burst which killed him but at the same time the sepoy was also wounded seriously by the sniper's bullet.

On coming back he found that the platoon had run short of ammunition and he made three trips under very heavy enemy fire carryi
ammunition to his platoon. Then he was forced to go the RAP for attention owing to loss of blood.

This restless sepoy when he had recovered a bit set about making tea for the whole platoon and under heavy fire from the enemy took forward hot tea to his comrades in the frontline.

end
Expediting the Jap withdrawal from the Tengnoupal Ridge and converting his retreat into a rout, the capture of a prominent hill to the east of Sibong, known as Battle Hill, by a battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles enabled us to have a grand-stand view of the retreating Japs on their LOC. The Rajputs singing and shouting made merry here as they sent MG bursts on the Jap LOC. In this battle and from the attack on Lone Tree Hill near Shenam, the Rajrifs have been commanded by Lt. Col. Dinesh Chandra Misra of Agra and a graduate of the Indian Military Academy.

The 28th of July was a rainy day and very misty too. The fresh troops, about two companies strong, were entrenched on the forward slopes of the knife-edged ridge up which the Rajputs had to make a frontal attack. Air support could not be had owing to the heavy mist and due to the near proximity of our own troops. Jap MGs and MGs in the pimple formed a formidable bastion. The Japs here were the lay-back of the main enemy forces who were threatened by the troops of the 23rd Indian Division.

In front of the main objective was a small pimple which it was necessary to get first and which could be used as a base for an attack up the hill. At midday with artillery support a company of Rajrifs under Major John Maclean, originally of the Argyll Southern Highlanders and a grandson of the Chief of the Maclean clan (the Major was formerly at Ballechin House, Ballinluig, Perthshire, Scotland) led the attack. Immediately there was heavy unexpected MG fire from the Japs in the pimple and all the machine guns on the hill also were firing at this company. Realizing that the only means of securing the pimple was to rush it, Major Maclean at the head of his company made a dash for the position with bayonets, grenades and light automatics. Fighting across the thick bamboo jungle, merely by dash and courage Major Maclean captured the pimple. The Japs on this pimple dispersed leaving behind their ammunition, MGs and MGs. 11 Japs were killed besides many more wounded. Consolidating the crest of the pimple, this Highland Major held it against very heavy counter-attacks. The Japs were only 30 yards away on the
further slopes of the pimple. Meanwhile some of the enemy had gradually got behind the pimple and cut off our communication with the battalion HQ. On finding that the two companies which he had sent on either side of the track to the pimple could not progress very far owing to the heavy enemy fire, the C.O. of the battalion, Lt. Col. Misra, with only one company rushed to the rescue of Major Maclean. He cleared the 250 yards of the way fighting on either side and his prompt action raised the morale of our troops. On reaching the pimple he established a defensive box there and returned to the battalion HQ. In this fighting the C.O. was slightly wounded on the ear and his orderly killed from a burst from an enemy MMG.

The enemy on either side fled into the nullahs and the pimple was made secure by Major Maclean. Since it was past dusk already the attack on the main feature was called off till next day when at about the same hour with heavier artillery support, which I saw going off in great strength almost shaking the entire ground, from the pimple the Rajputs put in their attack. There was not much of heavy opposition as the enemy was demoralised. Shouting 'Jai', the Rajputs climbed to the top and opened up their MMGs on the retreating Japs. Though many more were killed only 37 Jap bodies could be found in the pell-mell. The Japs ran in panic as we had cut off his LOC.

Now commenced the grand-stand shooting. Singing and shouting merrily, the Rajputs vied with each other as they gave MM bursts on the retreating Japs on the road below. "This battle was the climax to our campaigning for more than two years in these wild jungles, high hills and death valleys", said Lt. Col. Misra to me after the battle. "And my men have never enjoyed themselves so much as when they stood on this grand-stand and mocked the retreating Japs".

ends
Sacrificing his life in a spirited bayonet charge on the enemy strong position at Lone Tree Hill, Subedar Sardar Khan of the 6th Rajputana Rifles set the pace for our advance on the road to Tamu.

The Japs about two companies in strength coming right behind our positions at Shenam had established themselves on this hill about four miles to the west which was overlooking our LOC from Palel. For our advance up the road it was imperative that the Japs should be ousted from this hill and "Scraggy". This hill was the Rajputs' cake and the other one the Gurkhas'.

At dusk on the 23rd July the Rajputs put in their attack on this densely covered hill with two platoons. The Japs were on the crest of the hill and its further slopes. As usual the enemy had entrenched himself strongly and our troops had to ascend the hill while fighting. Hill-climbing is not easy in these parts as the whole earth becomes slippery owing to the incessant rains. But our men fight with one great determination and a high sense of duty. Owing to the ascent the battle always starts by our making a dashing rush at the enemy positions.

At this tense moment the same feeling creeps into one's mind as that of a youth learning to swim when he looks at a deep well into which he is asked to jump without thinking. It is at this moment that the great traditional valour and honour of an Indian soldier gets mastery over his mind and he makes a gallant dash. I have often seen an Indian soldier at this tense moment and every one of them crossed the Rubicon leaving everything except his duty in the hands of Fate and that is what accounts for his bravery. I cannot but admire their philosophy which is most suited to the battlefield and is a very essential element in the winning of any war. Hesitation has no play on his mind and if everyone of his countrymen should only watch an Indian soldier going into action, he will no doubt cherish the ideals which an Indian soldier symbolises in the war of today.
Subedar Sardar Khan, whom I saw making the attack, was a typical Indian soldier. Throwing grenades in front, he led his men in a bayonet charge against the enemy who was only 30 yards ahead. I saw the grenades bursting among the Japs who replied with heavy small arms fire, grenades and cupdischargers. But nothing would stop this undaunting V.C.O. He had climbed the crest and was proceeding to the slopes shouting the battle cry of the Rajputs when an enemy grenade struck him and killed him. By his courageous and brave action he had paved the way for our advance and had enabled the platoons to drive the Japs out of this hill and the entire feature. The Jap dead that could be traced amounted to more than 150 and many more of the enemy were wounded. Large quantities of valuable equipment were captured. Since its capture the hill has been known as the Rajput Hill.

Subedar Sardar Khan was a Punjabi Mussalman Chib Rajput of village Bharat, district Gujrat, Punjab.
In honour of the visit of His Excellency Sir Andrew Clow, Governor of Assam and His Excellency Lady Clow, His Highness the Maharajah of Manipur gave a dance-party in the Durbar Hall at his palace in Imphal. Officers from both the services, the Army and the Air Force were present in addition to State officials and members of the Durbar.

This was His Excellency's first visit to Manipur seen after the historic battles fought on its soil by Indian and British troops.

Manipur the home of a great dance tradition though battle-scarred still retains its festive atmosphere and its people have borne cheerfully the conditions brought about by the fighting on their soil. Our troops have always been friendly to them and they in turn have not only been admiring the gallantry of the Indian Army but have endeavoured with the means at their disposal to make the troops comfortable during their stay here. They have willingly vacated their homes for us to stay in,
have kept us supplied with fresh milk for use in our hospitals and have grown
the maximum produce of vegetables and poultry for our consumption. This
war-effort on his part has not been without a certain amount of sacrifice of
his own needs and comforts.

Though I have not seen a single beggar in the whole of
this State, the dance programme commenced with a beggar’s dance followed by
a slow

a slow moving Naga dance and several others including one by

a youth with a plate of fire in each hand. Pishak and little

Bimla were the dancing girls both of whom did ample justice to

the tradition. Bimla, very young yet, may soon be an art-

ambassador to the world from Manipur.

ends
Scraggy

Butting monsoon clouds and mist surround the 5000 feet high "Scraggy" which has been the bone of contention for several months till July 24 when a battalion of the 10th Gurkha Regiment captured it after a heavy grenade battle lasting for nearly four hours. This opened our line of communication to our forward troops of the 23rd Indian Division who had reached Tengmuopal and Sibong encircling the forward troops of the enemy.

"Scraggy" along with "Gibraltar" and "Malta" are hills in a bee-line from the mountain-village of Shenam on the Palel-Tamu Road which meet the Tengmuopal ridge at right angles. Shenam is the crowning glory of an ascent over mountains and the road to it twines in hair-pin bends every 200 yards and one false turn will send one's vehicle down the deep valleys below. The country is beautiful and abounds in deer and gibbons. With an annual rainfall of nearly 200 inches, these regions are converted in the monsoon into slow-moving rivers of ankle-deep slimy mud. The clouds and mist appear intermittently
and a thin rain beats sharply down your face when the cascades of rains stop for a rest.

The Japs were entrenched on the farther side of Scraggy from whose top one could command a complete view of the entire topography to the east. Till this attack our troops were carrying out raids and offensive patrols on the Jap positions. Our object was to kill as many Japs and secure information regarding their positions. On one such patrols by a section of the 5th Gurkha Regiment, bursting with grenades into a party of 40 Japs they Gurkhas killed nearly ten of the enemy and returned with useful information about enemy defences and no casualties. Naik Narbahadur Gurung and Naik Mahbhir Pun leaving an LMG behind to attract enemy fire, on a dark night crept up to the skyline and behind the Jap sentry posts. Moving further they heard snores from a bunker and slowly making a hole on the bunker, they dropped two grenades through it. As cries of pain and terror rent the air, one Jap who ran out of the bunker
was hit by a grenade. In the confusion more Japs came out and they were all hit as they ran into the slit trenches where the Naiks had thrown two more grenades. Having hit two bunkers by now and flinging the last grenade at the enemy, they collected the rest of the patrol and returned to the west side of Scraggy (our side).

Right from the middle of May not a day passed without a raid from either side. Exchange of grenades broke the lull between raids and patrols and the wiring had to be done during the short intervals between grenading.

Early dawn on July 24, the 10th, Gurkhas put in their attack with artillery support and Scraggy was held by nearly a company of the enemy who had only been reinforced with fresh troops only the previous night. Grenading their way through, the Gurkhas used nearly 4000 grenades. The enemy gave tough opposition and had mined his entire surroundings. Each Gurkha was carrying nearly ten to 20 grenades with him. In pouring rain and slushy mud the battle swayed to and fro for nearly four hours at the end of which the Japs withdrew leaving 48 dead
and two Japanese alive who were made prisoners. Many of the fleeing Japs were trapped and killed by a battalion of the 5th Gurkhas who caught them between two of their companies down the road.

Indicative of the last fierce battle on Scraggy are the actions of Naik Ajirath Rai and Rfn. Shyamdal Rai both of the 10th Gurkhas and of East Nepal. Naik Ajirath Rai, section commander of a platoon attacking the hill from one side, when his section was held up by fire from a large bunker taking one man with him went forward and leaning over the top of the bunker threw into it three grenades. As he could still hear the enemy inside, he swung into the entrance and was met by a Jap with an LMG. Seizing the LMG with one hand he shot the Jap with the other hand. His platoon suffered heavy casualties and with another were the only NCOs left. Taking command of the platoon, he charged to the crest of the hill and were fired on from a bunker they had passed. Going up to the bunker alone with a home-made flame thrower and inserted
and inserted into the entrance. Three Japs who ran out were dealt with.

Rfn. Shyam dal Rai finding his platoon held up crawled forward with his haversack full of grenades. With complete disregard to his own safety, he in turn stalked five different enemy bunkers and throwing grenades into them enabled his platoon to attack and capture the objective. "It was like distributing fruits from a basket" remarked one of his officers to me. Perhaps selling pea-nuts to the Japs!

What remained on Scraggy after the battle were stinking dead bodies of the enemy, large quantities of ammunition and weapons, rations and equipment and records containing valuable information. Scraggy itself was bald most of its trees having been razed to the ground and big bomb-craters and pot-holes yawned out to the pouring rain.

ends
Deserting the kitchen-fire, a young Pathan cook in a battalion
of the 6th Rajputana Rifles would not rest with the fighting blood in
his veins and went to have a crack at the Japs in the battle on
Lone Tree Hill.

Mohamed Sharif, a Pathan of Dheri Kahal, district Hazara,
NWFP, was restless while this attack was on and left the bread burning
on the fire. His C.O. whom he asked for permission to go and fight
deprecated. On the sly he and another orderly securing rifles and
ammunition went to the crest of the hill and joined the fighting.
Meanwhile their absence was noticed at the HQ and they were given up
for missing but to everyone's surprise he returned a few hours later
and alone, carrying a Jap ammunition pouch. Next morning also he whipped
off without permission when the whole area was infested with enemy
snipers and brought back a 11 inches long Jap bayonet which proudly
displaying to me he remarked: "After all I am a born fighter. I am
always restless when my battalion is fighting and I would like to fight instead of cooking. His C.O. quickly replied: "We cannot afford to lose a good cook like you." I also concurred with half a morsel of chappati and curry in my mouth and now Mohamed Sharif has compromised between cooking and fighting.

This battalion is proud of its fighting followers.

Two office runners, and two of the O.C.'s bodyguard --- all Rajputs--- had also drifted away armed to fight.

ends
Mani: Indian Army Observer
Imphal: 16 Aug '44
Battery

Punjabi gunners on the Palel front marched across 15 miles of
difficult terrain their battery of 25-pounders were in time on top of the
5600 feet high "Hambone" on D-day to fire on the reverse slopes of Shenam
where the enemy had entrenched himself. This feat earned for them commenda-
tion from their Divisional Commander.

With a load of that of nearly 250 jeeps they had to climb
nearly six hills in pouring rain. In some places the slush was
so deep that even jeeps would not move and had to be pulled in batches of
four with winches fixed on Dodges manhandled into positions. After the
first five miles even this became impossible and two bulldozers had to be
harnessed. At one incline the two bulldozers required 60 more men
to pull one gun up.

Firing nearly 300 rounds on the enemy, the Punjabi gunners
softened the ground for our Gurkhas to advance and capture the position.

Artificer Staff Sergeant Digby whose home is in Karachi
rescued a gun which had fallen into the culvert on an incline of nearly
90 degrees. Thud and plash with the shingle under his feet giving way he went
down the slope nearly 20 feet and working for nearly five hours stripped the
gun completely. It was then brought up and refitted again.
Illustrative of the quick perception, hardness and cheerfulness of a Mahratta soldier are the exploits of a battalion of the 5th Mahratta Rifles on the Imphal front.

After capturing a feature near Palel in a bayonet-charge, Subedar Haruti Savant of village Natul, district Ratnagiri, was injured seriously. While he was being carried in a stretcher, one of the bearers was killed and the other leaving him there went to seek for help. He lost his way in the dense jungle and four patrols after 48 hours found the Subedar in a cheerful mood inspite of profuse bleeding from his injuries and having had no food during the time.

Sepoy Bhimu Pal of Chikodi, district Belgaum, after being in Jap custody for 10 days escaped with a Jap rifle noticing that the sentry was asleep. Marching across nearly 12 miles of virgin jungle, to his surprise he found that his battalion had moved away. Beating about this enemy infested forest, he finally reached his battalion with scanty clothes though and quite famished yet cheerful.

Naik Shankar Yerunkar of village Kawle, district Kolaba, leading his section against Jap bunkers at Kudai Kunou, showed leadership and courage of a high order. He was commanding a section of the leading platoon whose advance was held up by heavy fire from the flank and from two bunkers in front. Running forward under heavy fire and firing at point-blank range with his tommy-gun through the slit of one bunker he silenced it. Throwing two grenades into it, without hesitation he led his section straight into the next bunker and destroyed it.

Sepoy Kashiram Chawan of village Sirgun, district Ratnagiri, was platoon-runner of the leading platoon when the Mahrattas attacked Jap bunker-positions near Sibong. The forward elements came under fire and one wounded Mahratta lying close to a bunker could not be recovered owing to heavy LMG fire from the bunker. On his own initiative this sepoy, organising a party of three, led them forward and killed three Japs lying in positions near the bunker. Then under covering fire from his party, Kashiram went forward alone under fire and recovered the wounded man -- quite calm at the end of it and greeting the RAP with a cheerful smile.
Unimpeded by rain and storm men of the Indian Pioneer Corps have kept our forward troops moving on the Imphal front. Though their work may not be spectacular, their promptness has in no small measure contributed to the quickness of our operations.

Working under extreme conditions of weather and geography, the Pioneers have carried on their job in pouring rain and floods, in four feet deep slush and at heights of nearly 5000 feet.

Besides work that may be forced on them in an emergency, they normally carry rations, water, ammunition and wireless sets to the forward troops. They also build bunkers, trenches and defensive areas. In the evacuation of casualties they assist as stretcher-bearers. Working under the supervision of army engineers, they lay the metal and tar on the roads in addition to helping the bulldozers to level the roads and they have had a share in the creation of most of the airstrips on this front.

The Pioneers get little respite; yet they carry on cheerfully. On one occasion they had arrived back from their daily duties at five in the evening and were again recalled within three hours to unload a supply convoy. 73 of them were at it till midnight and cheerfully reported for duty early next morning.

Their work is quick and smart. During the time that Imphal was fed by air, on urgent summons from an RAF unit the Pioneers were rushed to a forward airstrip over which the Dakotas were already hovering. The Japs started intense shelling and after half an hour when there was a lull in the shelling nearly 100 planes dropped their precious cargo. Before the enemy guns recommenced the Pioneers had collected all the stuff safely.

Very often they may be found with the most forward troops. A company of Pioneers had to carry rations, mortars and small arms ammunition to our infantry who had infiltrated behind the Japs in the Naga village at Kohima. They had to evacuate the wounded while returning. These Pioneers had just then returned from their day's work and as soon as it was dark they crept with their load to our infantry position and delivered the goods safely. The next evening they...
the casualties and came back to their lines suffering no casualties.

Their work is not without amusement. One of their companies carrying ammunition accompanied a bunker-bursting party south of the Silchar track. As they were moving with their heavy loads on slimy slushy paths in the pouring rain, all of a sudden a grenade exploded right behind one of the porters. A splinter went straight for his water-bottle and piercing through it burst the water out. It was so amusing that the Pioneers burst into laughter.

Pioneers are an essential part of long-range penetration groups. They collect the rations dropped from the air. One of their platoons recently accompanied a brigade for 40 days when they collected spread nearly 98 per cent of the dropping over an area of three square miles across hills and cuds. During this time they also carried the wounded for more than 100 miles across dense jungles and steep hills to the west of Ukhrul.

Frequently they came under fire. A company carrying reserve rations and ammunition to our forward troops in the dense jungles southeast of Tiddim Road, while crossing a nullah came under heavy fire. They carried the load in time and without any loss. On another occasion they had to collect rations which were lying between us and the enemy. While collecting it they were caught between the fire from both sides but went on calmly collecting the entire lot for 45 minutes.

Inspite of the adverse conditions due to the monsoon the Pioneers are quite cheerful. With stretchers resting on their heads and moving in waist-deep mud and water, south of the Silchar track they evacuated more than 100 casualties over a distance of three miles in less than two hours. Some of the casualties needed urgent attention. When they reached the RAP they greeted the M.O. with a smile and a song.
Though less spectacular yet playing an equally vital role as the frontline troops are the Indian and British troops manning the line of communication. Their prompt and quick work has in no small measure contributed to the winning of the Battle of Manipur.

'Movement Control' who transport troops personnel and stores working all hours of the day and night have kept our forward troops moving without a hitch. On a small railway mostly used formerly to carry tea from the estates and with few coahhes available, daily they move thousands of troops and nearly 4,000 tons of goods. Their job requires great patience and tact as they have to please one and all.

In their routine life they occasionally have scope for adventure. Quarter-Master Havildar Khadim Hussain of village Angu, district Kohat, NWFP, a movement control N.C.O. on board a steamer transhipping troops and stores across the Brahmaputra, on a moonless night when his vessel was wrecked by a rock in midstream took a country-boat across the swelling river to the nearest shore and ran nearly 20 miles before he could get a relief steamer. The vessel had cut a leak and water was flooding the engine room. This occurred at nine o'clock in the night and at seven in the morning Havildar Khadim Hussain was there with the relief-vessel to save and tranship to their destination the 500 troops on board with the goods.

These river-steamers are run by chartered companies but their movements are controlled by the army who provide a medical officer and a Havildar in charge of stores and rations. Deck-games are provided for the troops and a new addition will be a radio with loudspeakers.
With the advance of the Allied troops into Burma more and more refugees flow into our lines and the Army in close cooperation with the Commonwealth Relations department of the Government of India have elaborate arrangements for their reception.

Large numbers of the refugees have escaped from the Jap-occupied territories under the most trying circumstances—their only anxiety being to get to our lines at any cost. Some of them have been rescued by our troops as they captured village after village and town after town.

On assembly at Myitikina the Civil Affairs Service of the army takes charge of them. They are fed (augmented by U.S. Army rations) and they are transported by air to Indian airport. From there army vehicles carry them to a transit camp run by the army where the army supplies them with blankets, mosquito-nets and clothing whose cost is paid by the Burma Refugee Organisation of the Commonwealth Relations department.

From the transit camp they travel to a dispersal camp under military escort where after interrogation by army officers the Burma Refugee Organisation takes charge of them and sends them to their relatives or friends in India if they have any. Otherwise they stay in these camps spread over the whole of Assam.

At one such camp on the banks of the Brahmaputra that I visited I was struck by the one-community life led by people of various nationalities. Burman, Anglo-Burman, Chinese, European, Gurkhas, Chins, Kachins and Indians—all live together and I watched all their children playing together transcending the limits of language. Each camp has a radio, games, school and hospital. The army provides petrol, rations and hospital comforts. "Once they come in they do not like to leave the camp," said an officer in the camp to me.

ends
Travelling more than a thousand miles by rail, two years ago a thousand buffaloes came to one of our forward bases in Assam to supply milk, butter and cream for use in our forward hospitals. Everyday they now give 4,000 pounds of milk and nearly 170 pounds of butter. Their milk contains a high percentage of fat and it is strained and standardised before issued.

They came from a military farm in India and it took them nearly two weeks to get settled to their new pasture.

These grade buffaloes are taken good care of. Branded on it's horns each has a name and a history sheet where its service record, calving record, lactation, veterinary, movements and weight details are all kept. Trained personnel look after them.

Some of the hospital patients have seen a few of the animals and quite naturally they have a preference for "Nida"'s milk or "Khosa"'s milk.

ends
Working at most forward points on our line of communication are white-clothed men from the Travancore and Cochin State Labour Units. Their work has been invaluable and has quickened the driving out of the Japs from Manipur and Indian soil.

Their work has earned commendation from their area commander. "I should very much like them to know that efforts are being appreciated. In this way they may feel that as well as the serving soldier— who perhaps gets rather more glory— are doing their part in the present struggle and that when it is over they may feel it is a victory in which they have taken a considerable and honourable part", he says writing to their organisations.

Working for more than eight hours a day even at the height of the monsoon, they have contributed by their labour to projects of the highest importance and priority. They have worked on roads, airfields, depots, railway construction, brickfields and antimalarial drainings. Sometimes conditions were difficult and uncongenial but ungrudgingly and cheerfully they have worked and the results of their efforts have materially assisted the war-effort of this front.

They draw rations and pay as the troops. They are supplied with blankets, mosquito-nets and anti-malarial clothing. Only they do not wear any uniform. Their organisation is as in the army and they are under military discipline.

Describing them as "excellent units", General Slim, 14th Army Commander has written to their Maharajas expressing his gratitude for supplying these units. "The men have worked very well indeed and during recent difficulties stood firm and behaved as soldiers should"
Begins in the high thickly wooded mountains of Assam that divide India from Burma, hums one of the best and busiest transport systems in the world. It is the Army Transport Organisation on our line of communication to the Imphal front, and its quickness and efficiency have stood the test well during the battle of Manipur. Their vehicles are on the road all the twenty-four hours and on all days in the year. Working with five tonners, ten tonners, three tonners and other miscellaneous vehicles, they transport rations, ordnance and other stores and troops to the frontline. On the return they remove salvage and carry leave troops to the railhead. Altogether running about four and a half million miles per month, their average lift is about sixty thousand tons per month. Each vehicle in the fleet averages about one hundred miles per day. The movement of vehicles is so well organised that their exact location at any given moment is known both to the headquarters and the company concerned. Their own police man the traffic control posts at every ten miles on the road. Road patrols ply stretches of the road looking for casualties and recovery units are distributed at various points. The entire organisation is linked up by telephone, which ensures its smooth and quick working. Workshops scattered at convenient intervals and marshalling yards at either end add to its efficiency. Traversing the winding mountain belt known as the Manipur road is not without difficulties. Most of the road is in good conditions.
page two condition but sappers and pioneers are incessantly fighting the monsoon to keep the road in good condition. These are landslides both large and small—ever hundred in a month and bulldozers keep constant vigil to go into action. The hairpin bends are not easy of negotiation for heavily loaded vehicles and when it rains skidding is not uncommon. Steep slopes and equally steep climbs with the bends in between literally convert the movement of vehicles into the rocking motion of ships. But the transport vehicles have always been on time and never once failed our forward troops. To obtain the maximum efficiency out of them the vehicles are maintained with great care. Each has its history sheet including the drivers. A loaded vehicle prior to its journey undergoes a twenty-minute check up at the company station. Bolts and nuts are tested, tyres are checked, and oil and grease are attended to. On return a longer test is conducted and adjustments made. Once a week they are sent to naga service stations where naga youths clad in waterproofs wash vehicles with high pressure water obtained by harnessing a mountain torrent. They also check tyres, oil, and plugs, and they are enthusiastic. It proves excellent mechanics and very reliable. Their sisters who do the gardening in the service station are already jealous, and it may not be long before they learn to wield the hose and the grease gun. Working in pairs the Indian riased drivers exchange the wheel every hundred miles and have a twelve-hour break after
Page three

Every thirtyfive hours stop each vehicle carries sufficient quantities of rations stop their job is not always without glory stop a party of them fought in the battle at Manglatongbi stop a pathan driver who erringly drove his vehicle into the jap lines was bayoneted in the shoulder but made good his escape after hiding in a nullah for several days stop in the battle of Kohima they often unloaded under fire and within observation of the enemy stop when the last road block on the Manipur road was being cleared they were immediately behind the tanks ferrying our infantry and sometimes only a couple of yards from the scene of battle stop there was keen competition among them as to who should go first stop their E M commanding officer says quote i say unhesitatingly that they are the finest lot of men i have ever worked with stop twenty four hours per day three hundred sixtyfive days per year they have given the best that is in them worked extremely hard and never complained stop i would not hesitate to operate manch motor transport with these men in competition with the best in the allied armies unquote stop note insertion in sea will enthuse elofsee troops ends
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Fifty thousand gallons of petrol per day for one full week after the opening of the Manipur Road helped to beat the Japs and push them out of Manipur.

Behind the issue and movement of this enormous quantity of motor spirit lies the hard work of the R.I.A.S.C. personnel and the day and night vigil of those who man the P.O.Ls. (Petrol, Oil and Lubricants filling stations) all along our line of communication to the Indo-Burma front.

Millions of gallons of petrol every day are carefully tested, the barrel containers are cleaned under air-pressure and examined for leaks and tightly sealed, in order to avoid the monsoon rains getting in.

Cattle story 2.

While speeding along our line of communication to the Indo-Burma front if you are suddenly held up by hundreds of ducks marching in twos across the road and wondering to which they were proceeding as reinforcements, if you follow them they will certainly lead to the farm where a young British major and the son of Lionel Edwards, the famous artist, would be ploughing the field in his overalls constructed out of a Bren-gun carrier.

Unassuming Major Edwards besides supplying thousands of pounds of meat to our forward troops is also rearing a large number of ducks and geese with the hope of issuing their hundreds of eggs by Christmas to the troops.

The farm grows its own fodder and silage and the cattle are given the best fattening ration available from local resources.

Farming by day and night he has to keep the wild animals away. A couple of tigers, a few leopards and several hyenas are the menace and periodic visits from elephants and bears are not uncommon.
In a remote workshop on the Indo-Burma front, cheerful Italians from all parts of Italy are helping to beat the Japs. This mobile workshop is mostly composed of Italian. They have their own N.C.O.s and C.S.M. besides two Italian officers and they are assisted by British and Indian mechanics and staff.

Some of them have been tank mechanics in the Italian Army and some have been at the Fiat motor works. In addition to type mechanics tackling every type of motor they are experts at welding, electrical and instrument-making jobs.

The quickness and the thoroughness of these Italian mechanics stood the test during the battle of Manipur when they put thousands of injured vehicles on the road again within a few days -- most of them came in with smashed-up engines.

A feature of this camp is the comraderie between Indian, Italian and British other ranks who all work, play and eat together-- the Indians relish the macaroni and want them often.

The Italian football team is the champion one in the area. They receive and send mail to their families at home.

Like other ranks they receive rations and receive uniform and pay besides trade pay. They are quite happy and their C.O., a British Captain, told me that they are the finest lot he has ever worked with.
From tiny washers, springs, nuts, bolts and pins to a 75mm shell, stocking and issuing them in thousands and thousands, the Indian Army Ordnance Corps with its several dumps all along our line of communication plays a vital role in the defeat of the Japs as they equip a sepoy from his rifle to his bootlace and the army formations with their tanks, motor transport, wireless equipment and hospital beds.

Most of the articles other than scientific instruments and motor spare parts are manufactured from Indian factories.

"White hot"- operational- demands are met forthwith and despatched either by their own transport or rail depending on the circumstances.

During the battle of Manipur, besides large quantities of ammunition, boots, gum-boots, trousers and socks in large proportions, quantities were flown into Imphal where our troops had to fight both the Japs and the monsoon.

Nothing is wasted by the I.A.O.C. They have a 'return stores' system by which partly serviceable stores are returned and they are sent back to the stock after the necessary repairs and mending. They run their own workshops for this purpose and in one depot that I visited, their C.O., an Indian Colonel, proudly displayed to me his desk which was made out of the wood of unserviceable motor lorries. Plane-blades, jack and smoothing, have been made out of the springs of motor transport. Even chisels and screw-drivers have been produced here and their whole camp which is about two square miles appeared to be "ersatz" to me.—

These depots employ hundreds of civilians as clerks, tradesmen and labour.

ends
Mani; Indian Army Observer
Comilla; 1 Oct '44
Sixteenth

Winning one I.O.M. (2nd. Class), seven M.C.s, one I.D.S.M.,
and four M.M.s during the battle of Manipur, a battalion of the
16th. Punjab Regiment fighting with the 23rd. Indian Division has
played a notable part in pushing the Japs out of India.

They took part in the wide-flanking movement against the
HQ of the Jap 15th. Division which was then conducting operations
to the east of Imphal. Moving by night only for four days they
completely surprised the enemy and killed 30 of the enemy in this
clash. Pursuing the enemy further, this battalion surprised him
again at Shonphel. Sometimes they had to
climb through virgin jungle at the rate of 100 feet an hour before
they overran the enemy positions, killing at least 30 of them and
injuring an equal number. Part of the booty captured was a medium
machine gun.

Their next action was the capture of the strongly defended
position of Khudei Khonou. In an attack at dusk when the leading
company of this battalion was held up by heavy MMG fire, another
company under the command of Capt. Uberoi of Chakwal, district
Jhelum, took up the attack and stormed the position with great
skill and determination just as darkness fell. Capt. Uberoi has
been awarded the M.C. for his gallantry while leading his company
in this attack.

In a daylight attack against heavy machine-gun fire they
captured another enemy stronghold—- a 5000 feet high hill known
as "Ben Nevis". Reaching the objective by a concealed route they
attacked the main Jap position from the rear, and killed nearly
40 of the enemy besides wounding many more. For the next two
weeks they had to hold this position against repeated counter-
attacks supported by heavy artillery. The monsoon aggravated the
conditions. The men ate, lived and slept in their weapon-pits
day after day and at nights experienced the heaviest enemy
shelling experienced on this front—- from 75mm shells to 150mm
ones.

In the wide flanking movement of the 23rd. Indian Division
in the last week of July to cut the Jap rear, this battalion
captured three successive Jap hills by frontal attacks. They had to fight under appalling weather conditions and had to march along steep and dangerous tracks. In addition to capturing lots of enemy equipment they captured a 150mm gun which had been shelling them while they were at "Ben Nevis".

ends
Display of the utmost coolness and courage in tending the wounded under fire is the story of a young Madrasi doctor, Captain S. Gopalakrishnan, I.A.M.C., of Calicut, Malabar.

As medical officer to a battalion of the 5th Gurkha Rifles when they came under heavy fire at M.S. 98 on the Tiddim Road in the third week of March 1944, Capt. Gopalakrishnan never relaxed night and day for four and a half days under extremely difficult and adverse conditions.

His improvised aid-post under a culvert and his "ward" under a line of trucks were being constantly subjected to gunfire, small arms and sniping. The large casualties could not be evacuated owing to the enemy road-block. Water was scanty till it was dropped from the air on the fourth day.

Undoubtedly due to his unrelenting and devoted efforts serious cases that could not be evacuated survived. Speaking fluent Gurkhalı he is loved by the Gurkhas for whom he has a word of praise: "They are very quiet and never moan or cry even with the most serious wounds".

Captain Gopalakrishnan has now been awarded the M.C. Once previously, during the Indo-Burma frontier operations of 1942-43, he has been mentioned in despatches.

The doctor graduated from the Madras Medical College in 1941.

ends
MADRASIS IN MANIPUR

Madrasis in Manipur— they were everywhere. Right in the frontline and all along the line of communication for many miles they were there.

With their clothes dripping wet signalers from the south could be seen standing on ladders and repairing their wiring masts. Only two or three feet of the mast and the last few steps of the ladder were visible, the rest being under water. Very often the roads along which they were working were being shelled but calm and unperturbed were these Madrasis till I called out to them in Tamil and you should have seen the cheerful grin on their faces on being accosted in their own tongue by a stranger. Typical of the hospitality of the south, they opened their haversacks and served me delicious rice and sambhar which I had not tasted for months. Enquiries regarding villages and districts were exchanged and I parted from them promising to meet them again. They told me they were all quite happy and proud of the part that troops from their province were playing on this front.

There are many of them as drivers and mechanics in the RIASC, in the ordnance and supply depots, in the hospitals, in the Pioneers and in the Indian Air Force not to mention the companies of the Madras Sappers and Miners and a battalion of the 3rd Madras Regiment which was defending Imphal to the north. I visited the Madras battalion and found them in good cheer. New to modern warfare and yet with the earliest and equally worthy tradition in the Indian Army, these Madrasi infantrymen besides killing a large number of Japs have patrolled far behind the enemy lines and brought back highly useful information. Madrasis have distinguished themselves in the Indian Artillery too. Quite a large number of Madrasi officers were serving in the various arms. Madrasi nurses did not lag behind their menfolk and they were there tending the sick and wounded with the care that is typical of them.

Madras must be proud of these men, they have sent in khaki and the part they have played in the winning of the battle of Manipur.

ends
West Africans singing Kali N. Ratnam's Tamil hit; "Ennadi Summa" (Why are you dumb, my bonnie lassie?) floats over/from a hill in rural Bengal.

Surprised at hearing a melody in my mother-tongue in a distant province, when I went there I was accosted by a stocky young Madrasi, Mr. J. D. Martin from Madura who is running this Y.M.C.A. centre for West Africans, assisted by Mr. D. S. Vedanayagam from Madura also.

The Africans like Indian music with a quick tempo and they are interested in Indian life and history. Besides music parties, Mr. Martin arranges lectures and discussions for their benefit. In addition to a radio and a library the Africans have plenty of recreation in the form of outdoor and indoor games.

Not many miles away is a similar Y.M.C.A. centre for Indian troops which is also run by another Madrasi, Mr. G. Eddy from Nagercoil. A feature of this centre is the international dinner every fortnight when charming cheerful Indian nurses serve at dinner.

ends
Poignant sagas of the war in South-East Asia are the stories of the flight of refugees from Jap occupied Burma. Escaping from the Bushido and his fire and facing our own fire their one anxiety is to come over to our lines.

With many an unknown hero or heroine among them, their deeds are equally heroic as that of any frontline soldier. Unarmed, shelled, machine-gunned and bombed, leaving behind their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and friends who are falling dead or wounded next to them either from a direct hit or from a shattering splinter, their one determination has been to reach our lines alive or dead. Aged, infirm, pregnant mothers, little children—all joined in this flight from the hells of an oppressor. With their indomitable courage nothing could stop them except death from reaching our lines.

Typical of them is the story related to me by a charming 20-year old girl from Burma. Her escape from the Japs under the most trying circumstances is one of high courage and great determination but she has to remain unknown during the war. With her four younger sisters she left the Jap lines at Myikina at midday telling the sentries that they were going to gather vegetables in the sacks they were carrying. Once the Japs saw they were escaping they shot at them and machine-gunned them. Crouching and lying flat on the ground alternately they advanced a little when the shells from our lines came bursting on them. Once more lying flat during a lull they reached the Chinese lines who started shooting them. Crouching near a wall they sisters quickly decided that the only expedient was to pinch the baby they were carrying with them. The baby cried and the Chinese stopped shooting. They were taken care of and fed by them till they were flown to India.

ends
Farming with the Fourteenth, Major Derrick Edwards, RIASC, of Buckholt, West Tytherley, Salisbury, Wilts., and son of the famous artist Lionel Edwards, is supplying hundreds of pounds of meat to the forward troops and by Christmas hopes to send a vast number of eggs to them for which he is rearing a large number of ducks and geese.

If hundreds of ducks marching in twos across the road hold you up along the line of communication and if you follow them they will lead you to Major Edwards (himself a farmer in peacetime) ploughing a field on a tractor constructed from a Bren-gun carrier.

The farm grows its own fodder and sileage and the cattle are fed on the best fattening ration available from local resources.

Farming by day by night he has to keep the wild animals away. A tigress and her two cubs are paying nightly visits to his camp, so far her haul being 27 cows. "All personnel are on duty with Tommy-guns and rifles but no luck as yet", he told me.

ends
Diwali was celebrated with great éclat by Indian troops in Manipur. Coloured smoke-bombs took the place of crackers and the din of artillery practice rendered the necessary background. Multicoloured festoons and bulbs adorned most of the camps and glittering boards: "Diwali Welcome" attracted the eye all along the roads.

Feast and fun were had in plenty. 'Pilav', 'kurma', 'kheer' with a rich variety of sweets catered to the palate of the jawans who were singing merrily—songs reminiscent of their homes, villages and towns. In one hospital, officers, men and patients sat together at lunch and celebrated the occasion with dances and songs. Colourfully costumed Manipuri dancing-girls entertained the troops where encores and boisterous laughter kept the girls on their feet till early dawn.

ends
Nursing Indian and British troops at a half-way house near Kohima are two charming Naga cousins, Miss Kesovole Angami (22 years) and Miss Vikole Angami (18 years).

They do the dressings and dispense the medicines besides helping the medical officer in the operations. The elder is a trained nurse while the younger is an enthusiastic beginner. They both speak fluent Hindustani.

Coming from the village of Jakhoma, only a few miles from there, their presence attracts a large number of Nagas seeking medical relief for whose treatment the army has provided special facilities.

ends

Story 2

B.O.Rs: For U.K.

Assisting an Indian medical officer, four British servicemen kept a whole night’s vigil at the bedside of a 12-year-old Naga girl who was on the verge of death owing to acute kidney trouble and thereby helped to save her life. As a token of their gratitude, the Nagas from the girl’s village have invited the officer and the serviceman to a party.

The invitees are: Lt Chandra Mohan Patnaik, IAMC, RSM George Todd RA, of Landseer Road, Ipswich, Suffolk; Sub-conductor Herbert Haywood of 25, Laurel Rd Dudley, Worcestershire; BSM Victor Peel of 25, Orme Rd, Southall, Middlesex; Sgt. Walter Graves of 17, Drake Rd, Fayaherley, Liverpool.

Showing symptoms of an acute stage of nephritides, the girl was brought by the villagers to a hospital near Kohima where the army has provided sufficient facilities for rendering medical relief to the friendly Nagas. The doctor knew it was a battle against death from the patient’s condition but he thought he might yet save her life. Every hour of the night was marked by an injection. The BORs stayed on at their post till early dawn when the girl was safe on the way to recovery.

ends
Visiting hospitals, units and recent battlefields, members of the Defence Consultative Committee of the Indian Central Legislature spent seven days with the Indian troops of the 14th Army.

The party consisted of: The Hon'ble Sirdar Sir Buta Singh, C.B.E., Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammed Shahban and Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya accompanied by Col. Beard, Deputy Director of Public Relations to the C-in-C, India.

Lt. General Sir Slim received them at 14th Army HQ and gave dinner-party in their honour. Here they visited a military hospital and went round the wards making kind enquiries of the patients.

Accompanied by Major-General Messervy, the Divisional Commander of the 7th Indian Division, they visited a battalion of the 14 Punjab Regiment where they spoke to the officers, V.C.O.s and men.

After witnessing a "mock-attack" on an "enemy" barbed wire bunker, they saw and heard the burst of grenades, mortars and torpedoes and the clatter of machine-guns at close range, they heard from the Divisional Commander an account of the part played by his men in the battle of Kohima.

H.H. the Maharaja of Manipur entertained them at dinner and in their honour presented a dance programme with all the leading artistes of Manipur in it which was much appreciated by the guests. They congratulated him on his unwillingness to leave his State during the siege and he in turn paid a tribute to the part played by Indian troops in the battle of Manipur.

The party met battalions of the 14th Punjab and 12th F.F.P Regiments of the 20th Indian Division where they inspected the men's lines, langar and places of worship. More hospitals, a rest camp and a company of Bengal Pioneers were also visited.

At the HQ of the 33 Indian Corps, after meeting its Commander Lt. General Sir Stopford they spoke to the officers, V.C.O.s and men informally. Motoring on jeeps they crossed into Burma and saw Tamu. The armless, bodyless, noseless and eyeless statues of the Buddha in the pagodas still sit smiling at every visitor to this scene of desolation.
Another battlefield where civilization is growing again, Ninthukong near Bishenpore, was also visited by them where they saw for themselves the skeleton-remains of the Japs who came to conquer India.
PUBLIC RELATIONS... what they do

The Issue and Distribution of Information and Publicity... The issuing of material for the Press and arranging of Press Conferences... Conducting of Official War Correspondents... Broadcasting Programmes... Establishment of friendly relations between the public and the Army... "Speakers' Panel" constituting a list of lecturers who speak on a variety of subjects... Internal Publicity to British and Indian Units... Recording of Messages to soldiers' families... Production of films. These are a few of the many activities carried out by the Directorate of Public Relations.

ALL INDIAN SOLDIERS should know this—

When a soldier goes on Field Service in India he receives the higher scale of rations and batta at the rate of Rs. 5, so that a soldier on Field Service with 12 months' service earns Rs. 31-8. If he goes on service overseas he gets a further Rs. 7 per month expatriation allowance. Thus, an Indian soldier on Field Service Overseas who has been in the army for 12 months or more earns a total of Rs. 38-8. Overseas, in hard cash, the Sepoy receives Rs. 33-8, the L/Naik Rs. 35-8, the Naik Rs. 46 to Rs. 48, and the Havildar Rs. 49 to Rs. 53.

In addition to this he is fed, clothed and accommodated free, receives free medical attention and lighting, free travel when granted furlough, and travel concessions when granted leave. At a conservative estimate these concessions represent in kind at least Rs. 21 per month to the man not on Field Service and a correspondingly larger amount to the man on Field or Overseas Service.
"A few days ago I read in a daily paper a quotation which struck me as so appropriate to our position and so powerful an approach to our task that I have adopted it as a motto for my Headquarters and it is posted in all my Staff Offices. I recommend it to you. Remember it for the spirit of determination it exudes. This is what it says:—

"The difficult is that which can be done immediately. The impossible will take a little longer."

In that spirit of getting on with the job, whatever the obstacle or opposition, lies the road to an earlier victory and peace, and towards that goal the men of the Eastern Army will play a leading, perhaps decisive part."

Lieut. General N. M. S. IRWIN, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,

G. O. C.-in-chief, Eastern Army

—in a recent broadcast.—