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LONG NOTE BOOK



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Mani: Indian Army Observer
IATC: 7 July '45

Cuttack, July 7: Before a large gathering of local citizens and officials in the Assembly Hall, H.E. Sir Hawthorne Lewis, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S., today presided over the ^{first} graduation function of ~~XXXXX~~ Utkal University's Indian Air Training Corps. Owing to the inclement weather the passing-out parade arranged for could not be held.

Lady Lewis presented the ~~xxxxxxx~~ certificates to 16 successful ~~kandidaxax~~ cadets of whom eight are to appear before the Selection Board ^{entry into the} for the Royal Indian Air Force.

Dr. Parija, Vice-Chancellor, presented the first report on the I.A.T.C. in the University. His Excellency stressing the importance of air power and explaining the post-war ~~xixixixan~~ civil aviation plans in the Orissa province, appealed to the public to take increasing interest in aviation. He also hoped that the students of the University would join the R.I.A.F. in large numbers and congratulated F/O S.L. Shah ^{in charge of the training} on the performance of the first batch of trainees.

H.E. and Lady Lewis spoke individually to all the cadets. Cadet Aditya of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, won a silver cup as prize for the best cadet.

ends

Mani
Capt
7/7/45

Mani: Army Observer
Fifth Indian Div.
14 Aug '45

HOLD RELEASE TILL OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Rangoon, Aug 14: Troops of the Fifth Indian Division were wild with joy on hearing the news of the unconditional surrender of the Japanese.

Supported by the ^{same} black-beretted Indian tankmen who fought alongside them on the drive to Rangoon, Indian and British troops of this senior Indian Division, went round the streets of the city shouting and waving with joy.

Their commander, Maj-Gen. E. C. Mansergh, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., said: ^{My feeling} "It is not one of relief but of satisfaction. I am particularly glad that my Division has taken a full share and played a gallant part in the victory over the Japanese!"

The Fifth has the unique record ^{in the Indian Army} of having fought all the Axis partners; they ~~smashed~~ smashed the Italians in Abyssinia, the Germans and Italians in North Africa and the Japanese in Assam, Arakan and Burma. Hence they rejoice doubly at the final liquidation of the Axis.

Sub-Major Ganpat Singh, O.B.I., of village Pempurg, Jodhpur State and with 28 years service in the army said as soon as he heard the news: "We rejoice ~~xxxx~~ at the news because our people at home will get more of the necessities of life. It would also mean that we could return to our homes and rest which we need badly!"

Sub. Latif Khan, IDSM of village Kriplian, district Hazara: "First I rejoice in the victory we have gained over the Japs. Secondly it will mean better days at home". Of the same view and adding that it would mean the saving of many thousands of lives was Hav. Mohd. Akbar, MM, Bar-MM, of village Nahesar, district Rawalpindi.

Army clerks, cooks, sweepers and barbers--all those who never are in the limelight and who rarely get honours and awards--they were equally enthusiastic over the victory as the infantry ~~xxxx~~ soldier.

ends

Mani
Capt
14/8

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Army clerks, cooks, sweepers and barbers--all those who never are in the limelight and who rarely get honours and awards--they were equally enthusiastic over the victory as the infantry ~~xxx~~ soldier.

ends

for PR alfsea.

from mani army observer

~~xxxxxxxx~~ johore september seven stop Rajputs yesterday hoisted the union jack on the causeway connecting singapore island with the malayan mainland at johore bahru soon after occupying the causeway and a large ammunition ~~xxx~~ and arms dump nearby stop they are troops of the fourth battalion of the seventh rajput regiment who won fame at the battles of kohima point one two four in arakan and tiddim stop about midday they marched from singapore ~~xxx~~ ~~ix~~ and were welcomed all along the road by indian australian and british troops who had been prisoners with the japs stop one aussie exclaimed ~~ixxx~~ ~~xxx~~ to me quote indian soldiers arent they smart where are they from unquote and when eye told him they were rajputs he jumped and shook my hands vigorously stop the rajputs relieved a battalion of the japs who had their positions on two prominent hills covering the causeway stop thousands of rifles a hundred automatics and large quantities of ammunition were stocked in the dump] stop

story two stop two first cousins from fontwell sussex had a pleasant renoon after twentyfour ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ years ^{When} they met outside a prisoner of war camp where (A.I.493) Major allen robinson ninth gurkha rifles ~~xx~~ son of doctor charles robinson fontwell near arundale sussex had been interned by the enemy stop the cousin lieutenant kenneth robinson royal artillery coming to singapore as japanese interpreter with our occupation forces ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ located the major at the changi camp stop he gave him news of his people which he was rejoiced to hear stop quote eye saw him when eye ~~was~~ ^{was} five years old ^{and} so ~~that~~ eye could not recognise him easily stop he has just missed his brother capt michael robinson royal army ordnance corps who left india only two months ago on repatriation unquote he said to me stop quote eye knew he was in malaya since we/ received a red cross card from him but did not hope to meet him so soon and it is very difficult for me to describe how happy we are stop eye am glad eye came to singapore stop ends

For PR alfsea

from mani indian army observer

[singapore september sixth stop government house singapore was the venue of a picturesque ceremony this afternoon when the punjabis hoisted the union jack over it stop after searching for an hour a local chinese school ~~bank~~ gave them ~~bank~~ one stop the japanese guard was dismissed and taken to their camp stop then ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Lt.Col Sarbjeet Singh Kalha, D.S.O., commanding the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ second battalion of the first punjab regiment marched ~~the~~ his troops and mounted the guard stop the chinese dragon crests on their berets were glittering in the midday sun as they stepped smartly quite proud of the achievements of the indian army stop it was like a peacetime guard mounting and the punjabis enjoyed it after many weary years of war stop one of the punjabis broke the flag at the masthead and they took the salute stop their olive green battledress made them look as though they had grown on the green lawn stop the ceremony was perfect except for the band stop immediately after an advance party from seac headquarters moved into government house ends

for PR alfsea

from ~~manx~~ mani indian army observer

singapore september sixth stop punjabi troops who landed in singapore as the first occupation troops/ have a proud history behind them stop they are from the second battalion of the first punjab regiment which is nearly hundred and sixty years old stop the battalion was raised in madras in seventeen hundred eighty one under the name ~~xxxxxxxixfxxxx~~ sixth native infantry stop they fought in the china war in eighteen hundred forty two when they suffered more from the chinese dragons in the jungles than from the enemy stop since then they proudly wear the dragon as their regimental crest stop its name changed for a while into sixtysixth punjabis and later into the present one stop in the first great war they fought in mesopotamia where when most of them had become casualties, the rest were surrounded and captured at Kut-hyphen el hyphen amara stop at the end of the war the prisoners joined their battalion which had been meanwhile raised again in india stop between the two wars they were in the north west frontier of india and took part in all the wazirstan campaigns earning the name of being one of the crack battalions of the frontier stop with the fourteenth indian division they went to the eastern frontier of india in fortytwo and since then have fought in arakan/ imphal and burma stop their first round against the japs was at donbaik in arakan/ stop sent to foil renowned colonel tanabashis encircling column attempting to get behind one of our brigades stop the punjabis dragons achieved their objective after standing upto fanatical and determined attacks by overwhelming numbers for three days continuously stop after fighting ~~for~~ nearly fifteen months they ~~xxxxxxx~~^{went} to india for training only to return to arakan after four months with the fifth indian division stop there after smashing the enemy badly at the battle of quote three knobs unquote they were assigned the important task of opening the ngakgedauk pass to the relief of the besieged seventh indian division who were being supplied by air stop the battalion made its two famous left hooks and captured two important heights which were holding up the advance of the fifth indian division to open the pass stop quite a heavy toll of japs was taken and this operation alone earned for the division two ~~xxx~~ distinguished service orders seven military cross and several other awards stop ~~ix~~ ~~xxxxxxxixthax~~ flown as leading troops of the fifth indian division to besieged imphal when the japs threatened the safety

mani indian army observer

page two

of india they defended the quote litan box unquote where some of the most bloody battle for the defence of india were fought next they covered the withdrawal of the indian parachute brigade from shangshak and other troops on the ukhrul road and their next role was as the spearhead of our advance along the tiddim road some magnificent battles were fought on this road and they won their first victoria cross on the way to capture kennedy peak but unlucky subedar ramsarup singh did not survive to receive the ~~XXXXXX~~ distinguished award stop in the liberation of burma they fought on the battlefields stretching from meiktilla to pegu and mokshitwa stop these punjabis entered singapore with hundred and fifteen awards to their credit in theis war ends

for PR alfsea
from mani indian army observer

singapore september sixth two men from Leicester ~~was~~ were over-
joyed to meet for the first time outside a prisoner camp in
singapore stop after three years of mental weariness sickness
and toil as a prisoner in jap hands (637076) aircraftsman dennis
lacey ~~jumped~~ 166 brunswick street leicester jumped with
joy when accosted by fusilier cyril snutch of main street
sardington stop fusilier snutch was marching along with punjabi
troops of occupation when they reached a prisoner of war camp
stop fusilier snutch looked at a weak one leaning on a post of
the barbed wire fence stop ^{he} snutch hesitated for a moment and
then ~~advancing~~ advancing to ac lacey asked for his
hometown stop as the low reply leicester came both shook hands
vigorously and a volley of questions and answers were exchanged
stop quote for three years the japs forced me to work cutting
stones on hills and my health broke down owing to poor nourish-
ment but since our troops came am improving ^{and} taken care of ~~and~~
unquote said he tome stop quote hope to be on my way home soon
unquote stop next to him another ~~australian~~ ^{australian} prisoner
hailed quote jehny unquote to a gurkha and questioned him
quote gurkha unquote stop quote ji unquote replied the sticky
nepalese and immediately they shook hands and embraced each other
stop ends

hand
capt

6/9

For PR Alfsea

from mani indian army observer

Use
~~Singapore~~

Singapore september fifth stop indian (stop british troops) of the fifth indian division landed ~~xxxx~~ at ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ singapore today under a heavily laden sky stop trained for combined operations recently in Rangoon comma they were keen on making a tactical landing although the Japanese commander of the island had signed the surrender. stop indian troops returning after three long years were given a ~~xc~~ousing reception by the chinese indian and malay residents who hung flags and festoons and cheered stop second battalion of the first punjab regiment ^{landed first (-)} and third of the fourth gurkha rifles landed ~~simultaneously~~ while first of the seventeen dogras landed at pulau brani an island south of singapore] stop Disarming and rounding up of the Japanese commenced immediately during which our troops showed restraint and discipline stop the Hippon army was polite and generally behaved well stop incidents were to be avoided and hence it was a delicate operation stop taking over guards ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ at key points ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was quite dramatic stop company commanders approached the officer in charge of the jap guard who had already received orders from their own seniors stop jap officer saluted our major and then called his guard to attention before ordering them to surrender their rifles, bayonets and ammunition after which the officer laid down his own pistol and sword stop ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ after they were ~~xx~~ marched away to a central camp with their kit by our escort, our guard took their positions stop it seemed that the jap ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was keen to impress us on his smart parading and most of them had cheerful looks perhaps with the hope of returning home in time for the autumn equinox festival stop the indian tiger struck in north africa killed in burma and now reposes with calm dignity at the focal point of south east asia stop [the fifth indian division smashed every one of the axis triumvirate and it iss fitting that they should be given the honour of reoccupying this bastion ends *of the East*]

Mani
Capt
5/9

For PR alfsea
from mani army observer

singapore september twelfth begins general itagaki ~~xxxxxx~~ with credential and seal from field marshal
count terauchi ~~xxxx~~ commander of the jap expeditionary force southern
regions ~~xxxxxx~~ along with his ten generals
surrendered ^{in person} this morning to lord louis mountbatten supreme allied
commander sea stop ~~xxxxxx~~ brigadier
kay yess thimayya dso represented the indian army at the function
while capt maharaja of cooch behar and lieutenant colonel
sner ali represented the indian states stop the ~~xxxxxx~~
honour done to these three officers is in recognition of the part
played by the indian troops in the defeat of the japs in south
east asia stop the municipal town hall was the venue of this
surrender approaches to which were crowded with chinese indians
and malays since early this morning stop a guard of honour was
provided to the supremo on the quote padang unquote opposite the
town hall stop along with marines navy air force australians and
british troops indians from the first battalion of the seventeenth
dogra regiment presented the guard of honour while punjabis
gurkhas and madrasis were also on parade stop after inspection
the supremo retired to his room in the building stop meanwhile
the general itagaki and his party were escorted into the hall
by senior officers among whom was lieutenant colonel sarbjeet
singh kalha dso ~~xxxxxx~~ the second battalion of the
first punjab regiment stop ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~ the supremo entered after a few minutes and ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~ after reading out a message from count terrauci regretting
his inability to be present on the occasion and empowering
general itagaki with full powers to surrender ~~xxxx~~ comma
read the surrender document to be signed by the jap general
stop general itagaki signed eleven copies of the document not
forgetting to ~~fixxxx~~ stamp the seal of the jap count and his own
stop everyone of these copies was countersigned by the supremo
and one copy was handed over to itagaki who and his party bowed
and were marched away stop lord louis then appeared at steps of
the hall and proclaimed the ~~xxxx~~ allied military occupation of
south east asia after which the union jack was unfurled in the
quote padang unquote and the british american chinese and dutch
national anthems were played by the band of royal marines stop
the crowd and ex indian prisoners of war who had priveleged
positions at the function cheered the supremo stop quote we
were forced to be present at a similar function the japs held
in 1942 but today we all came ~~xxxx~~ voluntarily to take part and
cheer in ~~today's function~~ unquote said a group of chinese to me
ends

Batavia, september 29:

For Public Relations Service Singapore please pass PR Alifsea from mani
army observer with 23rd Indian division begins indian and british troops
of the 23 indian division who are to occupy java landed at tandjoeg priok
today after a voyage of over nine hundred miles in landing crafts stop
the first occupation troops to arrive were the seaforth highlanders comma
first patiala infantry and sixteenth punjab regiment stop the voyage was
uneventful and the troops enjoyed it immensely particularly the seaforths
who did not miss the customary quote ducking unquote ceremony while
crossing the equator stop to indian troops java brings back the memories
of indian colonisation in the country in the early centuries of its
occupation by the quote pallavas unquote ~~xxxx~~ comma quote cholas
unquote and the quote gupta unquote periods of indian history stop though
not fully conversant the indian quote jawan unquote ~~ix~~ has a vague idea
of this ancient connection and extremely anxious to renew and strengthen
this centuries old bond of friendship stop these views were expressed to
me while on board by a sikh soldier from punjab stop compared with the
enthusiastic reception we had in burma and singapore comma local
reaction has been a little lukewarm owing to strong nationalist feelings
among the indonesians stop in singapore we were received at the docks
by cheering crowds who hung festoons all along our way but here in
batavia only children waved and cheered at us stop ends

For PR alifsea

from mani army observer

singapore september eleven stop on the eve of victory day ~~xxxxxxxx~~
at singapore comma at a crowded press conference in government
house lord louis mauntbatten supreme allied commander south east
asia paid glowing tributes to the indian troops under his command
stop quote indian troops have formed the largest part of our ground
forces stop they have fought in every big victory comma and deserve
the highest praise stop many thousands of indian ~~xxxxxx~~ prisoners
of war have to be found, cared for and sent to their homes comma
and their recovery and welfare together with comma of course
comma with that of the uk and dominion troops comma constitute
an urgent task stop they have fought magnificently and at times
they have been maligned stop ~~ifxxxxxyxxxxxkxxxxxwithxxxxkxxxxxx
xxxxxixxxxxxxgaxdxyexaxkxxxxxxixxxxxxamkxxxxkixixixixxxxx
axfixxxx~~ stop we couldnt have better fighting troops stop
he also revealed that the greatest tribute to the fourteenth army
came from ^{neitaro} gen/kimura comd jap ~~xxxxxxx~~ army burma area stop quote
eye beg to inform your excellency that eye have passed the cease
fire order for the whole of the Burma area army stop if your
excellency can inform where my troops are eye shall more easily
inform them ~~ss~~ the cease fire order stop unquote stop talking
about ~~xxx~~ the biggest operation for the invasion of malaya that
never came off he said that well trained and battle experienced
divisions were to be landed at points on the malay peninsula
north west of singapore with instructions to drive on with all
speed to the port. stop later there were to be airborne and command
landings stop the navy was ready the divisions were assembled at
the ports of embarkation and aircraft were standing by stop quote
we were convinced that this operation could not have failed to be
a great victory stop unquote stop the distance from the north
west corner of seac on the north coast of the arabian sea to our
new easternmost boundaries is greater than from the north west
corner of seac to st johns newfoundland stop the land area to be
taken over is about one and half million square miles which
excludes india stop when all prisoners are home on their way and
while this most vital errand of mercy ~~xxxxxxx~~ continues the job
of rehabilitation of these countries must proceed stop within the
one and half million square miles there is a population of one
hundred and twentyeight millions who have to be properly fed
given work and brought back to peacetime conditions stop ends

for PR alifsea
from mani army observer

singapore september fourteen begins nine days after the first
troops landed on the island there is still cheering in the streets
of singapore stop the occasions are the stream of convoys moving
to the harbour carrying hundreds of indian ex prisoners of war
on their way home stop there had been poignant times during the
last four years behind the barbed wire when in solitary seclusion
they had seriously thought if they would ever safely return to
their motherland stop but always on second thought they knew
that one day their own countrymen ~~xxxxx~~^{hyphen} whose rise to fame during
the hard years of war in the middle east and europe they had not
been aware of hyphen such renowned soldiers would come to liberate
them stop with eager illumined eyes they listened to me for nearly
an hour / as eye related to them the exploits of the indian army and of
indias thirtyone victoria crosses stop they rejoiced when our
troops first landed and embraced us in typical indian fashion
comma heart to heart stop their joy was doubled when they found
food clothing and medicine coming down to them from the skies
like manna in the wilderness stop most of them ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ realising that all this ~~xxxx~~^{needed} extensive
and long preparations thanked us profusely for remembering them
during their days of captivity stop their faces brightened up
as we told them our plans for repatriating them to india and they
gladly cooperated with us in the execution of those plans stop
one ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ punjabi jawan who though emaciated still retained
youthful and determined looks told me that five years ago as the
red hue of the setting sun cast long shadows ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ near the
village well he had bidden goodbye to his young wife to whom he
has now sent a message saying ~~xxxxxxxx~~ that he would be seeing
her before long stop another asked me how the people at home had
been bearing the burdens of war and what the indian cities looked
like now stop when the journey back home commenced their joy knew
no bounds and they waved and cheered stop but lurking latent in
them was still an unhealed wound comma the wound that the japs
had inflicted during the four years of torture stop this wound
expressed itself a little when these homegoing indians jeered ~~xi~~
from their swift running trucks at the long line of the
nipponese army marching out of the island ~~xxxxxxxx~~ towards
their concentration area in the ~~xxxx~~ mainland stop ends

for PR aifsea
from mani army observer

singapore september 11th 1942 begins when jap guards at sembawang
airstrip allowed the civilians to loot the valuable stores therein
indian prisoners of war ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ could not bear
to see ~~ix~~ ~~xx~~ the loss
stop hence acting on their own initiative the mysore punjabis
and bengal sappers who were interned there disarmed the jap
guards and took over the protection of the strip and stores stop
this happened a few days after our first troops had landed on
the singapore island stop the japs had always dispersed their
prisoners to places which were strategically vulnerable and they
kept the first mysore infantry comma the seventh of the eighth
punjab regiment and the bengal sappers and miners ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xx~~
close to the strip stop at other places they had parked
fighter planes well inside prisoner camps and prisoner hospitals
stop this strip contained serviceable fighter planes stocks of
bombs heaps of machine parts and /other miscellaneous stores stop
~~xx~~
major mir sarafraz hussain number ~~xxxx~~ of the first mysore
infantry directed the disarming ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{of} the hundred and
twenty jap guards and established our own guards stop ~~xxxx~~ they
were thanked and their action ratified by our senior air force
officer who visited them later stop ends

For PR alfsea
from mani army observer

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~~xxxxxx~~ with credential and seal from field marshal
count terauchi ~~xxxxxx~~ commander of the jap expeditionary force southern
regions ~~xxxxxx~~ along with his ten generals
surrendered ^{in person} this morning to lord louis mountbatten supreme allied
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kay yess thimayya dso represented the indian army at the function
while capt maharaja of cooch behar and lieutenant colonel
sner ali represented the indian states stop the ~~xxxxxx~~
honour done to these three officers is in recognition of the part
played by the indian troops in the defeat of the japs in south
east asia stop the municipal town hall was the venue of this
surrender approaches to which were crowded with chinese indians
and malays since early this morning stop a guard of honour was
provided to the supremo on the quote padang unquote opposite the
town hall stop along with marines navy air force australians and
british troops indians from the first battalion of the seventeenth
dogra regiment presented the guard of honour while punjabis
gurkhas and madrasis were also on parade stop after inspection
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the crowd and ex indian prisoners of war who had priveleged
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were forced to be present at a similar function the japs held
in 1942 but today we all came ~~xxxxxx~~ voluntarily to take part and
cheer in ~~xxxxxx~~ unquote said a group of chinese to me
Mani Capr ends

for PR alifsea
from mani army observer

the two thousand
singapore september eighth begins among ~~the~~ indian ex prisoners
of war who are being evacuated to india by sea tomorrow and
day after a large proportion are gurkhas most of whom have
not been to nepal for nearly seven years stop gurkhas in the
indian army go on leave to their homeland only once in
three owing to the long and arduous journey stop their
~~destination~~ port of call is madras where extensive arrangements
for their reception have been made stop the others of the party
are mostly from service copps stop sick have first priority
stop there are nine hundred bedridden cases travelling in the
two hospital ships karoa amarapura stop appreciable number
suffering from the effects of malnutrition are on the ambulance
rajula and the troopships are risaldar ekma dilaura and devon
shire stop british officers ^{of the indian army} are also travelling ninety percent
of whom have elected to go to india first in the company of
their men stop general auchinlecks punjabis have occupied the
northwest area ^{story two begins} of the singapore naval base where they found all
equipment and ack ack guns well greased and the breeches of
the guns were clean stop as per agreement jap naval personnel
were not disarmed stop pikhs are guarding a wireless station
where twelve jap operators are still in communication with
their headquarters stop the cantonment bridge has a combined
services defence comma hazariwals guard the western end and
ratings the other ~~end~~ from where commences the zone occupied by
the navy] stop at a jap medical headquarters ~~xxxx~~ in the base
when one of our officers gave the jap officer notice to vacate
in two hours the latter was more than surprised and blinked for
a few minutes after looking at his watch which already showed
seven stop it was then explained to him that his ~~time~~ was tokyo
time and that it was only four by our time stop ends

xxxx the place

was vacated half an hour earlier than required stop after three
years of fighting in the jungles, this first battalion of the
first punjab regiment are now enjoying the comforts of electric
lights fans beds hot water clean clothes and clear air stop
ends

Mani
Capt
8/9.

MUCH
BEHIND
THE
TIME

For PR alfsea

from mani army observer

singapore september 22 begins guarded by a detachment of jats twenty
jap military police officers and warrant officers were marched into
the pearl hill jail this afternoon stop in ~~six days~~ the hot sun they
did six miles on foot in two hours and one jap sergeant fainted
within a mile of the prison but revived after a dash of cold water
and was brought in later stop en route the japs passed by their
former military police headquarters with searching and ~~unaffected~~
undisturbed looks at the building which was the dread of the
singapore public stop two indian quote jawans unquote sepoy amilal
hindu jat of village lad state jind and naik mahsud ali punjabi
muslim of village nivarsi district karnal both of the third stroke
nine jat regiment led the escort under the command of a british
officer stop ends

Mani
Capt
22/9

For PR alfsea

from mani army observer

singapore september 22 begins guarded by a detachment of jats twenty
jap military police officers and warrant officers were marched into
the pearl hill jail this afternoon stop in ~~xxxxxx~~ the hot sun they
did six miles on foot in two hours and one jap sergeant fainted
within a mile of the prison but revived after a dash of cold water
and was brought in later stop en route the japs passed by their
former military police headquarters with searching and ~~xxxxxx~~
undisturbed looks at the building which was the dread~~xx~~ of the
singapore public stop two indian quote jawans unquote sepoy amilal
hindu jat of village lad state jind and naik mahsud ali punjabi
muslim of village niversity district karnal both of the third stroke
nine jat regiment led the escort under the command of a british
officer stop ends

Mani
Capt
22/9

Man/1/A/ 8 Mar

Capt P.R.S.Mani
Indian Army Observer

Yawbe, South of Irrawady: Mar 7: An outstanding 'combined operation' by Gurkhas of the 1st Gurkha Rifles and British tanks of the Royal Armoured Corps enabled us to ^{yesterday} capture a strong Jap position west of the village Sinbyugon.

As ~~one~~ troop of tanks and one company of Gurkhas blocked the enemy's line of retreat, the rest of the infantry advanced on the right flank with one squadron of tanks leading. Seeing the tanks, the enemy bolted from his original main position ^{was already} and dug in new positions in the ~~xxx~~ ^{tall} grass where they were difficult to be perceived. Tanks got round the enemy and the Gurkhas went in with their kukris shouting their battle cry. As with a sickle they literally reaped the field and the harvest ~~was~~ was 72 dead Japs and two wounded prisoners. The enemy used LMG fire and sniped without much effect. One Jap anti-tank gun was captured.

The tanks displayed great dash and speed during this battle which was made possible by patrols of ~~the~~ Gurkhas and frontier troops who previously had accurately pinpointed the enemy positions.

ends

Mani
Capt
8/5

MAN/2A/ 9 Mar

capt p r s mani

indian army observer

KANMA, ~~MYINMU~~ SOUTH EAST OF MYINMU? MARCH 9: British troops from the south-west of England have captured three more villages today in our advance on this front today against slight opposition.

I watched the battle for the village Anaktau and the other three from our forward positions. Under cover of machine gun fire from the Jats on the right flank and supported by Indian tanks, the infantry attacked. The enemy opened up his small guns and we replied with mortars and machine guns. The interlude between the din of battle was marked by the neighing of a solitary mule. Quite early in the attack, a wounded Jap was brought in one of our jeep ambulances. One more prisoner was later captured. Enemy casualties have not been enumerated at the time of writing but it is likely that they are not slight. About 100 Japs from Anaktau attempted to escape across the chaung to the east of the village but as they~~xxx~~ stepped into the ~~xxx~~ chaung they were engaged by our artillery. Results of this pounding have not yet come in.

MAN/3A/ ends

Mar 9: Since crossing the Irrawaday at Myinmu and after establishing a bridgehead, British and Indian troops of the 20 Indian Division have advanced nearly 12 miles inland to the east. The enemy opposition seems to be ^{somewhat} disorganised.

Our troops are fighting in rocky undulating country ~~xxxx~~ interspersed with mango orchards with the smell of fresh blossoms, banana groves and ripe tomato gardens. Palm trees are the only heights and the ground is mostly shrubbery. As we advance, the villagers are returning to their villages that we have recovered from the enemy.

Very small one foot diameter wells abound but the water is not drinkable. Drinking water is ~~xxx~~ quite efficiently rationed.

MAN/3A/ ends

Mar 9: An elder brother of an Indian V.C. had the opportunity to lead a machine gun charge on a Jap convoy who unwittingly walked into our perimeter last night and started to dig in.

The distinguished V.C. was the late Jem. Abdul Hafiz of the 9th Jat Regiment and his brother's name is Sub. Abdul Razaak, ~~of~~ a Muslim Rajput of village Kalanur, district Rohtak, Punjab. He and Hav. Mubarak Ali, also Muslim Rajput from village Karhi, district ~~R~~ Rohtak, were part of the ~~xxx~~ machine gun platoon which attacked the enemy killing five and wounding several more who escaped.

mani
Capt
9/3.

YWABO, MYINMU BRIDGEHEAD, Mar 10 : Indicative of the fairly ~~dis~~ disorganised state of the enemy on this front, several new factors have been noticed of late.

The Japs have been disarming^{the} weak and emaciated of their comrades and leaving them behind to their fate. Their pockets of resistance are mostly composed of men from different units and stragglers. A medical orderly was forced to fight ~~like~~ like the infantry. Two days in Japan and three months in Singapore was the only training a Jap soldier had received who has been recently captured by us. It has also been noticed that the retreating enemy usually leaves behind his wounded either to fend for himself or to throw himself to the mercy of one of our ambulances.

They do not seem to have received their mail for quite a long time. The latest date one interrogating officer has so far noticed is dated 'Japan, October 1944'.

ends

MAN/6A/Mar 10

Leading his battalion with great skill and displaying high gallantry, an Indian officer, Major M. Hiauddin, 12 Frontier Force Regiment, of Peshawar, recently captured two villages in a swift and complicated operation killing nearly hundred and sixty Japs.

Yezin and Inya were to be captured. Prior to the attack an adjacent village had to be cleared of the enemy. There was a strong enemy position covering the approaches to the only crossing over a chaung which had to be crossed to get to Yezin. Since Inya is south-west of Yezin, the axis of advance had to be changed after the capture of Yezin. The approaches to the chaung were mined by the enemy and necessarily the infantry had to storm it before the tanks could cross over after the sappers had cleared the mines. The rapid consolidation of the villages had to be done mostly by night. More than all, speed was essential in the operation.

Frequent enemy shellings were quite heavy and during the twelve hours of the swinging battle, Major Hiauddin displayed great coolness and courage and his calm demeanour was an outstanding example to all ranks. Major Hiauddin is a regular Indian Army officer and now is in temporary command of the battalion. Himself from the frontier, he is popular with his men.

Other than killing nearly 150 Japs the battalion also captured one 105 mm gun.

ends

mani
copy
10/3

Dwelha, Kyaukse District: Mar 16: Speedily converting the Jap retreat into a rout, troops of the 20th. Indian Division have cut the all-weather trunk road from Mandalay to Rangoon at ~~xxxxxx~~ Bilin, 26 miles south of Mandalay. Gurkhas have established a road-block. ~~4~~

Earlier Punjabis cut across the road at Singaingmyo, 22 miles south of Mandalay and are now pushing further east across the river Zawgyi. On the branch road from Singaingmyo to Kyaukse, more Gurkhas have established a road block at Wayindot, only a mile to the south of Singaingmyo.

It must be remembered that the railway runs closely parallel to the trunk road.

This new threat to the retreating Japs from Mandalay and the north-west virtually renders inoperative the order of Lt. Gen. Yukuwada, Commanding the Japanese 31 Div, ordering his troops to collect and reform at Kyaukse.

Surprise was achieved by the Punjabis and Gurkhas moving only by night ^{marching} across country and wading through rivers and chaungs. The Gurkhas near Wayindot, chased a party of more than 100 Japs near Letweya from wood to wood accompanied by our artillery. They are believed to have killed a minimum of at least 35-40 Japs. ~~and xxx~~ They also captured 17 bullock-carts loaded with 75mm ammunition. The Punjabis in a minor clash killed 15 of the enemy.

MAN/11A/ Mar 16

Killing ~~nighxxxx~~ nearly 80 Japs in one single encounter, a mixed force of frontier troops, Dogras and Indian and British cavalry have just now returned dusty and tired.

Headman of a village Pya nearby came to us yesterday noon with the information that there were about 100 Japs in his village digging in. As soon as this mixed force was collected it went to the village to investigate and found the enemy unwilling to fight and sitting quiet in their dug-outs. So great was their ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ indifference that ~~they~~ one of our ~~xxxx~~ liaison officers had just then come through the village and was surprised to find our tanks poised to attack the very village from which he had emerged. As we engaged the enemy, they fled into the bushes surrounding the village but soon they were hunted out of their hiding places. The count at the end of the battle was a minimum of 80 dead Japs. The remainder dispersed in twos and threes. Three LMGs, two MMGs and two mortars were captured.

Since crossing the Irrawady, the 20th. Indian Division have captured 32 guns.

ends

W. H. ...
17/3/42

-- an armoured car patrol

The patrol is coming back just now ~~but xxxxxxxxxx~~
~~but an armoured xxxxxxxxxx~~ who offered to take me along
 with them this morning but I reckoned then that they would not meet
 any Jap as the enemy would have bolted. It seems to me that they bolt
 more quickly than when they come in and there is a report that they
 were in this very place only a few hours before our arrival this
 morning. All evidences ~~in~~ confirm to this and there to my south a few
 thousand yards away are two large fires-- perhaps the fate of many
 more Burmese dwellings. But what has happened to these Burmese..I have
 not seen even one since this morning. Perhaps they were with the
 villager whom I heard last night trekking back to safer areas now
 cleared of the Japs. After a few hours the Burmese villagers did come
 and a young and sprightly lad told us where the Japs were and our
 artillery is pounding them.

The armoured patrol did a 14mile reconnaissance under
 the command of Capt.M.Ashraf Jan of Peshawar, nine years with this
 Indian Cavalry Regiment who was made prisoner by the panzers in Libya
 and escaped after the Italian armistice from an Italian prison-camp.
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ At every village the villagers showed him the enemy positions
 and in one village they ^{donning the steel helmets supplied} climbed to the top of car and waving their daks
 shouted and pointed out the Japs who were bolting on a road with their
~~xxxxxx~~ 70mm gun loaded on a bullock-cart which they had confiscated
 from these villagers. The enemy took to their heels in the countryside
 but Capt.Ashraf Jan's guns plastered them. His troop had killed about
 three Japs and wounded many more. He captured the gun with periscopes
 and an officer's writing-case with plenty of pictures in it. The villagers
 returned to their village with the bullocks. The locals were very warm
 and offered him nearly 20 eggs and wouldn't accept any price for them
 but it was forced on them.

ends

*Delayed because
 I cannot get back
 to his office at any
 Signal office as we are
 cut off from the rest.
 W. Jani
 Capt
 13/1*

AN/7A/ 11 Mar

Capt p.r.s.mani
army observer

Kanma, south-east of Myinmu: Mar 10: Inflicting very heavy casualties on the enemy and obtaining a booty of nine guns, 17 lorries, one staff car, personal belongings of a high ranking officer and a truck load of documents, a forward formation of Maj-Gen. Gracey's 20th Indian Division have made a speedy and dashing advance to Natthdaw, about seven miles to the east of the railway line between Sagaing and Myotha

and Three 100mm howitzers, three 75mm guns, two 47mm antitank guns, one 70mm battalion gun, some of them complete with sights and periscopes, ~~were~~ ^{captured} part of this booty during the last 48 hours. Some of the captured transport are in good working order.

Estimation of the total number of enemy casualties has been rendered difficult owing to the heavy casualties ^{independently} inflicted by our infantry, tanks and artillery, ~~independently but~~ ^{but} it is believed that quite a large number of the enemy have been killed.

At the moment of writing a big battle is going on to the east of Natthdaw and the enemy is offering stiff opposition.

ends

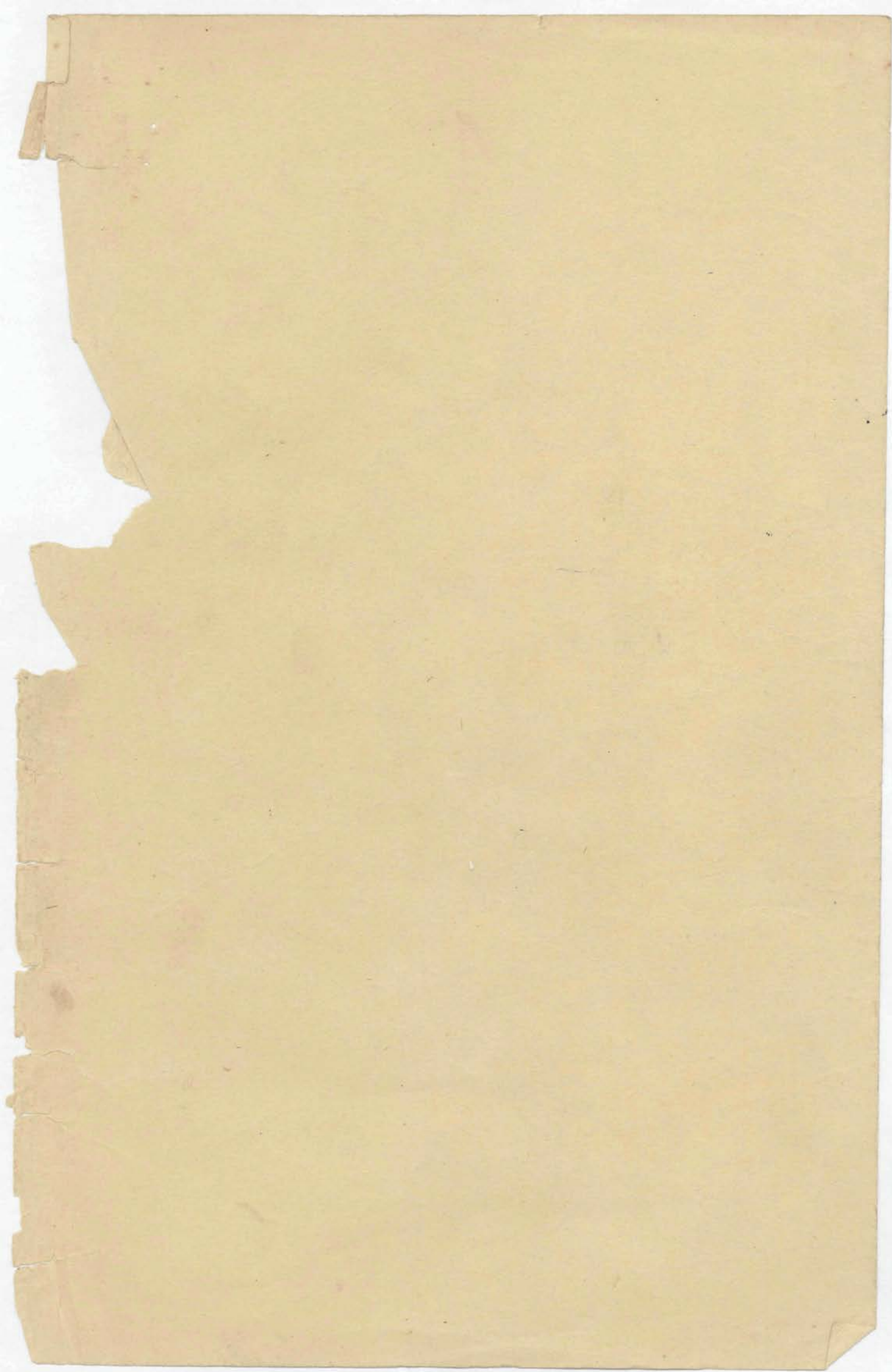
MAN/8A/ 11 Mar

Mar: 11: ~~Today, Maj-Gen Gracey,~~ Congratulating his officers and men today on their excellent performance prior to and since crossing the Irrawady, Major-General Douglas Gracey, OBE, MC, Commander of the 20th Indian Division ^{said} that they had achieved great success in the speedy, dashing and complicated operations of the last few weeks in which they had routed many Jap gun crews besides killing a large number. ~~of the enemy.~~ of the enemy.

The Division is already on its offensive in a new phase of operations after consolidating the Myinmu bridgehead. Raised specially to fight in Burma, these troops have been renowned Jap killers and they are proud of their record. A significant factor to notice is the increasing number of prisoners that are being captured.

ends

Mani
Capt
11/3.



Capt. Rao, IPRO, HQ 33 Corps.

MANI
ARMY OBSERVER

.....

PLEASE AMEND STORY NO.10 AS FOLLOWS:

PUNJABIS HAVE ESTABLISHED ROAD-BLOCK AT OHNBINGYAN
22½ miles south of MANDALAY ON THE MAIN TRUNK ROAD. GURKHAS
HAVE ~~ENTXTXEXRØK~~ BLOCKED THE BRANCH ROAD AT WAYINDOT A MILE TO
THE SOUTH OF SINGAINGMYO. PLEASE CUT OUR ROAD-BLOCK AT BILIN.
STILL NOT CONFIRMED, SHALL INFORM YOU. REGRET THE INCONVENIENCE
CAUSED.

*Mani
Capt 17/3.*

WUNDWIN Mar 21: Occupying Wundwin today, an armoured column of the 20th. Indian Division has driven a wedge between the Jap forces operating in the Kyaukse area and the Meiktila area. The opposition was very slight by a party of 30 Japs who were completely surprised and caught digging in.

The enemy started running but five of them were killed before the village was cleared. Truck loads of enemy ordnance stores and medical equipment have been found. The booty includes a number of vehicles in good running order- some of those that we left behind in 1942- and engineering equipment.

A village headman reported that the running Japs told him that a vast American army was at their heels and that was the reason for their running away. It is believed that quite a large number of the enemy have been killed by our troops in the area surrounding Wundwin.

It must be remembered that Wundwin is on one of the exit routes for the Japs towards the Shan States whose heights I can see from here against the skyline.

Our armoured column consists of ^{Indian} armoured cars, Indian and British tanks, Royal Artillery, and troops of the 10th. Gurkha Rifles and Bombay Grenadiers. I accompanied this column on their nearly 60 mile march from Chaungwa and all along we met with very little opposition though a few stragglers fired at us before they could be either dispersed or killed. Near Pinze, our advance guard contacted odd parties of Japs infiltrating east. A few Japs were killed and two prisoners taken who died later of injuries. The first night ^{Indian tanks and} Gurkhas laid a road block three miles east of Pinze on the main road. Two ammunition carrying Jap ~~xxxx~~ MTs ^{were} blown up and two were captured in running order. 20 bullock-carts carrying equipment were also destroyed.

Yesterday at Pindale, the Bombay Grenadiers had a good kill. They captured 7 Jap swords and must have accounted for more than that number of the enemy. Nk. Ramji Lal, Jat of village Laudhari, dt. Isar, came upon a Jap position with three officers together carrying no arms except their swords and shot at them. A medical and ordnance dump was captured and all our troops went in to fetch their correct size of boots. A Dodge truck was driven to our ~~ix~~ lines. Jem. ~~Jayakishen~~ Jayakishen when chided by his company commander for firing nearly 300 rounds without producing a dead Jap, went back and chasing a few Japs brought back with him two enemy dead. Jem. Jayakishen is a Jat from village Khairampur, dt. Isar.

The march of the column has so completely taken ~~away~~ ^{surprised} the enemy that he has not been given enough time to range his guns against us as we have not heard his artillery since we left Chaungwa.

ends

bramm
co. pr
21/3.

Dwelha, Mar 25

Killing nearly 400 Japs and capturing 23 prisoners, an armoured column of the 20th. Indian Division has captured Kume, 19 miles ^{south} of Kyaukse. The degree of surprise was so great that a half-eaten meal was discovered in one ^{Jap} officer's mess. It appears that ~~xxx~~ a large enemy HQ has been surprised and the booty includes five staff-cars, 18 motor transports, 25 outboard motors, and 16 assault boats. The rest of the enemy at Kume fled in a easterly direction.

While they are generally disorganised ^{elsewhere}, the Japs at Kyaukse are offering stiff resistance. It is apparently a big enemy base with numerous ammunition, supply and ordnance dumps. The Japs are trying their best to evacuate as much as they could and probably they have been told to hold to the last with the rest of the stuff. The area to the west of the town between ~~the~~ the railway and the Panlaung river appears to be a very big ammunition dump. Besides, ammunition in large quantities have been stored by the enemy in villages surrounding Kyaukse, under bushes, on the sides of roads and trees and under any cover available dispersed in groups of small stocks. Very many of these have ~~already~~ been destroyed by our troops, some have been captured in tact and the rest are still in enemy hands which accounts for ~~xxxx~~ his grim resistance.

It is really a curious picture on this front. At one place the Japs are running away pursued by our armoured column. In another place they are holding on with great strength. Kyaukse is being heavily shelled by us and has also been bombed. The enemy is ~~also~~ shelling our forward troops.

Day before yesterday, troops from the NW Frontier supported by ~~British~~ British tanks cleared an area near Kyaukse in face of considerable opposition mostly from snipers and killed nearly 50 Japs.

Burmese co-operation has of late been on their increase. In addition to furnishing accurate information regarding enemy locations and movements, they are resorting to direct action. A report has just come in where the villagers ~~had~~ of a particular village poisoned ~~many~~ a large number of Japs ~~and~~ killing nearly a fifty of them. The recipe seems to be some peculiar medicated toddy which first stupefies the victim.

ends

mani
Capt 25/3.

MYOTHA; Mar 25: Holding a flank as two Divisions of the 14th Army crossed the Irrawady further south, a battalion of the 3rd Madras Regiment fought against the ^{elaborate} defences that the Japs had established on the ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ banks of the river.

Enemy defences included a large number of anti-tank ditches, long connecting tunnels with machine gun posts ^{numerous} and 250 or 500 pound aerial bombs set with trip-wires. The whole area was heavily mined.

Supported by tanks of the Royal Armoured Corps, the Madrasis had to attack a village Pegado in this area. They had to clear a cactus position on the left before launching any attack. With air cover and .37mm howitzers and the Madras Sappers and Miners clearing ~~xxxxxx~~ the mines, they advanced after clearing the cactus ~~xxxxxx~~ position and very soon the entire village was blazing under our fire.

Sepoy ~~of~~ Nookanna of Vizag, with the forward platoon noticing three Japs in one bunker slowly crept to the nearest tank and tapped at the turret when a British gunner ~~xxxxxxx~~ cautiously craned his neck out and asked: 'Hello Johnny, what is it?' Nookanna pointed at the bunker and the tank immediately gave a burst killing all the three Japs in the bunker. The rest of the Japs, about 50, fled in panic ~~xxxxxxx~~

When our troops entered the village as soon as the fires had died down, they noticed nearly 200 bunkers. This attack culminated in their eventual arrival at Sagaing.

ends

For Fauji Akhbar

NYAUNGWUN, March 27: Operating on the right flank of 33 Corps, Maj-Gen Gracey's 20th Indian Division has already accounted for 3024 3009 Japs definitely killed since they crossed the Chindwin early in December last. The total since they launched their offensive across the Irrawady in the middle of February alone amounts to 2407 Jap bodies counted and their toll of prisoners is now 66. The incredible amount and variety of the equipment captured during their recent operations indicates the determination and dash which characterises the operations of this Division. 13 MMGs, 48 guns including nine 150mm guns, 16 tanks and more than 60 motor transports have been captured ^{or destroyed} uptodate.

The degree of surprise achieved by ~~the~~ the troops of this Division has been so great that the enemy has always been caught napping. A half-eaten meal on the table in a Jap officers' mess at Kume, two trains complete with engines and ~~xx~~ coal containing waggon loads of ammunition and equipment, ^{at Inedaw R.} the hurried evacuation of an enemy hospital leaving behind 23 wounded Japs to become our prisoners and large quantities of abandoned stores and equipment ^{near Wundwin} are several instances.

The large number of awards won by troops of this Division is also indicative of the contribution it has made to the general advance of the 14th Army in Burma. One V.C., two CBES, six OBEs, 16 MBEs, two Bar/DSO, 11 DSOs, five DCMs, 12 IOMs, 22 IDSMS, two Bar/MC, 87 MCs, two Bar/MM, 129 MMs and 64 Certificates of Gallantry are the figures upto the middle of March. Behind this success of the Division lies the unsparing efforts of its British and Indian troops. Everyone, infantry, cavalry, artillery, signals, medical and other services... all played a worthy role and lived upto their reputation.

Soon after crossing the Irrawady, ~~the~~ a battalion of the 13 Frontier Force Rifles distinguished themselves by repelling several strong attacks by the enemy to wrest our positions at Kanlan Ywathit. Supported by artillery, medium guns and flame throwers, the Japs initiated a series of bloody and fierce attacks which included a savage charge. Beating off every one of these attacks during a battle which lasted for nearly 48 hours, these sturdy men from ~~their~~ the Frontier ^{stood} held their ground firmly and finally forcing ^{ed} the enemy to withdraw.

A battalion of the 17th Dogras nipped a potential Jap force in the bud. Styling themselves 'TEISHANTAI' with motives of long-range penetration behind our lines, a small Jap force appeared one morning and about forty of them were caught bathing in a river by a platoon of the Dogras who charged and killed many of the enemy who started running in panic. A little later, the Dogras laid an ambush and killed more of this force.

At Letkapin, a company of the 10th Gurkha Rifles ~~witnessed~~ witnessed a dramatic interlude.... a party of Japs drowning themselves in a river! After a stiff fight in which more than 90 Japs were killed a party of 35 of the enemy rather than surrender walked into midstream and drowned themselves with their kit and ~~equipment~~ equipment on! The Gurkhas looked on amusedly and finished the episode with a few rounds to make sure the drowned men did not rise again! On another occasion, Gurkhas of the 8th Gurkha Rifles charged ^{into the Japs} at three enemy 150mm guns as the guns were firing and killed the entire gun crew. The guns lay silent with the beheaded bodies of their comrades.

British troops from SW England after a skilful night movement surprised the enemy and captured several of his guns. A North Country Regiment were amused to see their opponents, a Jap beach group, scuttle themselves and what called for a good laugh was the way a Jap officer buried his sword in the mud as he himself went down.

Both Indian and British Cavalry were always hot ^{on} at the heels of the enemy and never gave him any respite. Dashing across country ^{over long distances} and by skilful movements, they always surprised the enemy killing hundreds of them and capturing his guns, equipment and stores. Once when one of our Indian tanks knocked against an enemy MMG bunker our crew climbed down and after killing all the Japs in the bunker, hopped back ~~into~~ the tank with the MMG.

Every arm and every service contributed its share to this success of the Division. Indian Signals laid cables under-stream in the Irrawady sinking it every ten yards ^{improvised} with weights and wading some distance when their duck got stuck in the mud, all under heavy shell fire and with enemy planes strafing from above.

Besides accurate shelling of enemy positions and ~~catching~~ catching the Japs in nullahs and chaungs, the Royal Artillery and the Indian Artillery sometimes attacked like the infantry with success. A small party from an Indian mountain regiment surprised 10 Japs at their meal in a village and killed four with their tommyguns and grenades while the rest ran in terror with some wounded. Shortly after crossing the Irrawady when a party of 50 Japs crept near to our positions at night, a forward observation officer went within 40 yards of the enemy and directed our fire lying in the tall grass within range of our mortars.

Every arm and every service contributed its share to this success of the Division. Under heavy shell fire and with enemy aircraft strafing from above, Indian Signals sunk cables in the Irrawady loaded every ten yards with heavy improvised weights and when their 'duck' got stuck in the mud, waded some distance to lay their cables unmindful of the exposure to heavy enemy fire. Doctors, nurses and medical orderlies worked day and night, operating on

all urgent cases and quickly evacuating them by light planes. Many of the Div.HQ staff gave voluntary contribution of their blood for the relief of the wounded. Motor transport personnel, supply personnel and all cooperated efficiently and promptly to make the operations of the Division a success.

ends

Luani
Capt
22/3

appd
by the Div Comd

NYAUNGWUN, Mar 28: Working under ~~enemy~~ shell and small arms fire and with the enemy only 200 yards in front of them, a party of the Madras Sappers and Miners completed at night a 'Bailey' bridge near Nyaungwun enabling our infantry and tanks to advance towards Kyaukse by crack of dawn.

In the brilliant moonlight these Madrasi silhouettes were in full view of the Japs who ranged their artillery, mortars and LMGs and MMGs against them. In between spells of enemy firing and within five hours the Madras engineers built the bridge under the supervision of Jem. Appa Rao of Kasimkota, Vizag dt. 'The enemy thought that by blowing up the bridge he could hold up our advance but then he did not reckon that the Madras Sappers would be there advancing along with the troops of the 20th. Indian Division; they told me.

ends

*mani
Capt
28/3.*

RYUKSE: Mar 31: The last day train did not leave Ryukse station. It was loaded with sewing machines, medical stores, electrical goods, clothing, photographic material, letters of personal journals, XXXXX XXXXX large quantities of paper enough to last for a year for an entire school and mass furniture including sofa settee. Some of the passengers lay with their bones scattered all over the station yard. 'Baba' and a 'Jama' from the Punjab paying a tribute to the R.A.F. A Sikh company of a famous Indian Frontier regiment were the first to enter Ryukse. They went to the north and occupied the slice area. When they went in, there were only four Japs in the town and they were dragging away one .37mm anti-air gun. The villagers showed them the position and as our troops chased the enemy, they fled leaving behind the gun. In another village, the locals eventually removed the wheels from a Jap gun which they had to abandon in their hurry.

Dorise were the first to enter the railway station and make an inventory of the stock in a register provided specifically for the purpose by the enemy.

CAPT. HANI
INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER
WITH THE
20th Indian Division

It will not be long before the two converging troops link up and then late formation of the 14th Army would have cleared nearly 52 miles of the main road from Mandalay to Hangoon, from Billa to Wundwin. Keeping this as the axis, it is easier to draw with the centre at Myitna, then that would approximately represent the area cleared of the Japs by this formation of the 14th Army since crossing the Irrawaddy.

Gurkhas have also established road blocks on the tracks leading to the east near Ryukse leading to the east of it.

and

KYAUKSE FRONT:MAR 29: In spite of stubborn Jap resistance, 14th. Army troops are gradually closing-in on Kyaukse from the north, west and south. Yesterday against considerable resistance, Gurkhas captured Kade, a village three miles to the south-west of the town. They captured an LMG and counted five dead Japs.

Taking advantage of the numerous canals round the town, the enemy has flooded the ~~entire~~ countryside making it difficult for our tanks to operate. The whole of Kyaukse district is covered by a net-work of ^{irrigation} canals originally constructed by the Burmese as early as 1000 A.D. Most of these channels have been remodelled on modern lines. The river Zawgyi flows through the town and the large number of sluices have enabled the enemy to inundate particular areas.

Kyaukse town itself is the headquarters of the district and is 31 miles south of Mandalay on the trunk road to Rangoon. The railway also runs along the town. Its population in 1930 was nearly 7500.

Its importance to the retreating Japs is that it is the exit gateway for their disorganised and withdrawing troops from Central Burma into the hills of the Shan States.

ends

MAN/18A/Mar 29

Two Dogra Rajputs, Hav. Mangal Singh of village Pindi Deonia, district Sialkot and L/Nk. Vir Singh of village Dugan, district Kathua, Jammu State, have received congratulations from General Slim, 14th. Army Commander, for their gallantry. They have also received the I.D.S.M. and M.M. respectively.

Hav. Mangal Singh with six others went to investigate a local report about Japs. When they reached a nullah, his leading scouts reported the enemy sitting in it and he crawled forward and noticing 50/60 Japs he made a thorough reconnaissance of the area. Then taking the initiative and keeping half a section behind to give him covering fire, he attacked with only four men and shouting in English: 'One company to the right, one company to the left, charge'. With the impression that nearly two companies were attacking them, the enemy withdrew 200/300 yards. Meanwhile the Havildar killed two and brought back their pistols. Since the ~~enem~~ enemy were too many for him, he also withdrew a 100 yards and sent for company support. He kept on the fire and beat back one attack before the company turned up an hour later when they killed 22 Japs including an officer and wounded another ^{ten} before returning with a large booty of rifles and LMGs. L/Nk. Vir Singh was with the leading section in the company attack and though wounded severely in the thigh, led his section in a charge and himself bayoneted two of

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For Action

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No. PAGE FOUR OWING TO THE SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER COMMA THEY HAD
 KILLED A LARGE NUMBER OF THE ENEMY AND IN THE LAST FEW DAYS HAD ROUTED
 MANY JAP GUN CREWS(.) THE DIVISION IS ALREADY ON THE OFFENSIVE IN A
 NEW PHASE OF OPERATIONS AFTER CONSOLIDATING THE BRIDGEHEAD(.) RAISED
 SPECIALLY TO FIGHT IN BURMA THESE TROOPS ARE RENOWNED JAP KILLERS AND
 ARE QUITE PROUD OF THEIR RECORD(.) ENDS

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(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

20 Div

For Action

7-1600

TO

14 Army

(W) For Information (INFO)

33 Corps

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

~~19000 Restricted(.) For Indian Public Relations(.) From Mani(.)~~

~~Background for date 7(.) Most successful combined ops Gurkhas and British tanks against Jap position west of village Sinbyugon about 2½ miles south of Irrawady(.) Strong infantry and artillery enemy positions attacked and overrun(.) 72 Japs killed 2 POW(.) Booty two antitank guns(.) Dash and speed of tanks made possible by accurate pinpointing of enemy positions~~

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT }

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR		
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SIGNED

(Continued)

Call

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

OFFICE DATE STAMP

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

For Action

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

page two(.) by ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ patrols of Gurkhas
 and frontier troops(.) Since the crossing of the Irrawady on Feb 13 comma
 1457 repeat 1457 Jap bodies counted(.) Total Jap bodies found since Dec 18
 comma 2060 repeat 2060(.) sanding follow-up tomorrow(.)

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHERORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

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MESSAGE FORM

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Srl. No.

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OFFICE DATE STAMP

FROM
(A)

20 Div

Originator

30- Time of Origin

For Action

14 Army

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No. ~~IXX 19003/ RESTRICTED (.) FOR INDIAN PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR VINER~~
~~FROM MANI (.) KYAUKSE MAR 30 (.) WE ARE IN KYAUKSE (.) BRITISH AND INDIAN~~
~~TROOPS OF THE 14 ARMY HAVE ENTERED KYAUKSE WITHOUT ANY OPPOSITION (.) EYE~~
~~MARCHED INTO THE TOWN WITH A FAMOUS MIDLAND REGIMENT FROM THE WEST WHILE~~
~~MEN FROM NW FRONTIER ENTERED THE TOWN A LITTLE FURTHER NORTH AT THE SAME~~
~~TIME (.) WE ARE NOW OCCUPYING TO THE EAST OF THE RIVER ZAWGYI AND OUR~~

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT } WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

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OFFICE DATE STAMP

FROM

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

(A)

For Action

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

PAGE TWO TROOPS ARE ALREADY ACROSS THE RIVER TO CLEAR THE ENTIRE TOWN(.) THE ENEMY LEFT BEHIND LARGE NUMBER OF MINES INCLUDING AERIAL BOMBS WHICH MADRAS SAPPERS CLEARED BEFORE THE INFANTRY(.) ENEMY HAS BLOWN UP THE BRIDGES IN THE TOWN AND NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION HAS LEFT BEHIND A FEW COMPARTMENTS OF A TRAIN AND MUCH EQUIPMENT(.) IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY ~~COMM~~ COMMENCED PULLING OUT YESTER MORNING(.) AFTER SEVERAL DAYS

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT }

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

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MESSAGE FORM

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Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

OFFICE DATE STAMP

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

For Action

TO

(W). For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

PAGE THREE OF STUBBORN RESISTANCE BY THE ENEMY THE CRACK CAME

SUDDENLY WHEN OUR PATROLS THIS MORNING FOUND THE EAST SIDE OF THE TOWN CLEAR.
IT IS CLEAR THAT ENEMY DEMOLITION PARTIES HAVE BEEN AT WORK IN THE TOWN

DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS AND EVEN LAST NIGHT TWO BIG EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD.(.)

FURTHER SOUTH A MIRE SOUTH OF MYAK HAMIHO THE ENEMY IS STILL RESISTING

~~STRONGLY~~ STRONGLY AS OUR TROOPS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CUT HIS LOG INTO THE

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS { WIRELESS }

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

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Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

OFFICE DATE STAMP

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

For Action

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

PAGE FOUR SHAN STATES(.) ENDSTHIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT }
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WIRELESS

IF LIASLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY**IMMEDIATE**

Time System Op.

THI or TOR

Time cleared

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MAJOR

M.I.P.—324-B-G 923—21-7-44—50,000 Pads.

Mani: Indian Army Observer
24.5.45
Sep. Jumme Shah

5/7

After escaping from his Jap captors during a barrage from our guns, Sepoy Jumme Shah of village Shahpur, district Jhelum, limped to a Burmese village infested with 400 Japs and quickly changing into the Burmese clothes volunteered by the villagers spent the night in the village before returning to his lines the next morning.

Sepoy Jumme Shah was dressing the wound of a comrade during a battle when four Japs charged on him and took him captive after wounding him in the leg. As our guns opened up, the Japs fled and Jumme Shah wandered away from them finally reaching ~~xxx~~ a village where the Burmese helped him to change his clothes and hid him from the 400 Japs during the night. Next morning, remembering the location of his headquarters, he walked all the way to tell his comrades his strange story in strange clothes.

ends

Handwritten notes:
In ...
1945

Handwritten mark:
h

Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through or a second page of a report.

Pegu, May 24: When Japs vacated their bunkers to attack a Punjabi
~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{a little distance away} platoon, Subedar Mohd. Fazal, of Chak no. 100/12-L, district
Montgomery, in command of the platoon, occupied the ~~xxxxxxx~~ well-
constructed defensive bunkers and beat off several strong enemy
attacks.

Leading a patrol of the 1st. Punjab Regiment on the
thick-jungled banks of the Pegu river, about 12 miles to the north-
west of Pegu town, Sub. Mohd. Fazal and his men contacted the enemy in
daylight and in the clash with a party of 25 Japs, they killed one
Jap and wounded two more. The enemy dispersed and the Punjabi patrol
split up into sections in order to recce the area. While they were
doing so, about 50 Japs attacked the main platoon from the rear with
LMGs, rifles and grenade dischargers. The enemy was about to rush the
position and since there was with an artillery forward observation
officer ~~xxxxxx~~ and his party with him, the Subedar arranged to give
the party covering fire to withdraw and gradually withdrew the platoon
to an area where they found some empty bunkers. ~~xxxxxxx~~

Establishing

CAPT. MANI
INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER
WITH THE
5th Indian Division

Mani: Indian Army Observer 17/1A.
28.5.45

V. C. Nk. Fazal Din

~~XXXXXXXX~~, May 28: Meiktila: In the annals of the Indian Army, Meiktila will always be remembered as the battlefield where the heroism and might of the Indian soldier ^{were} ~~was~~ ^{at its} ~~at~~ height. Both to us and the enemy the battle for Meiktila turned out to be the battle for Burma. It was in such a battlefield that Sepoy (A/Naik) Fazal Din of the 10th. Baluch Regiment displayed ^{"courage and determination to duty and such} ~~dauntless~~ courage amounting to heroism, blazing determination to kill even when fatally wounded, supreme devotion to duty, presence of mind ^{and} sacrifice is ~~scarcely~~ equalled in the annals of War..." for which he ^{posthumously} ~~has been~~ awarded the Victoria ~~and~~ Cross.

Naik Fazal Din is the third Muslim in this war to receive this highest award for gallantry. With this, Maj-Gen. Cowan's 17th Indian Division have ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ won seven of them. In a special Order of the Day announcing the award, Maj-Gen. D.T. Cowan, D.S.O., M.C., says: "On behalf of all ranks of the 17th Indian Division I warmly congratulate 7 ⁽¹⁰⁾ Baluch on this great ~~XXXXXXXX~~ distinction which their record as a fighting battalion in operations against the Japanese has fully merited. I voice the feelings of all ranks in saying how much I regret this gallant N.C.O. did NOT live to enjoy the honour".

This 24 year old, tall, well-built, light-skinned and cheerful son of a petty farmer of Hussainpur (Hoshiarpur district) (Punjab) showed early promise of a soldier even when he was working on his father's fields. He was about eighteen ~~when~~ ^{when} one night a party of 10 dacoits attacked his village. ~~XXXXXXXX~~. Chasing them, he broke the leg ~~off~~ of one with a heavy stick and handed him over to the village policeman. Among his playmates and other boys of the village, he was always the leader and they implicitly ~~obeyed~~ ^{carried out} his orders. His favourite pastime was to accost the boys returning from the village school in the evenings, snatch their football from them and after kicking it for a short while, return it to them.

Naik Fazal Din lost his parents when he was a boy of eight. His ambition was to join the army and one cold day in 1940, he and a cousin stole out of the village without any counsel and enlisted at the nearest recruiting office. Though a volunteer, he had planned to remain in the army. Even while under training, he had been picked out of the rest by his Subedar and he won the first prize for high-jump in his batch of recruits. He has fought with his battalion in Burma in 1942, in the Chin Hills in 1943, in Imphal in 1944 and once again in Burma in 1945. While at Tiddim, he received the "Commando Badge", the battalion's award for the best patrolling.

A devout Muslim, like all other Punjabi Muslims

in the Indian Army, he was phlegmatic and highly reliable. Half his battalion ~~xxx~~ is composed of them and they have played a distinguished part in the 17 Indian Div's fighting in Burma. On the second day of the battle at Meiktila West when we gained our foothold, his company accounted for 138 Japs killed. At Pyawbe, another company of Punjabi Muslims from his battalion killed 72 Japs. In the battle for Meiktila ^{alone}, this Baluch batt~~alion~~ killed 548 Japs and captured 13 prisoners.

Nk. Fazal Din's widow, 22-year old Mst. Sirdar Bibi, will be the proud recipient of the Victoria Cross so gallantly won by her late husband.

ends

Mani
capn
27.5

Mani: Indian Army Observer
29.5.45

17/2A •

Pynwagon, May 29: Officers and men of the 17th. Indian Division have won 409 awards since 1942 which in a full measure represents the gallant fighting that troops of this Division have done during the last three years under the distinguished command of Maj-Gen. D.T. Cowan, D.S.O., M.C..

Out of the 25 V.C.s awarded to the Indian Army during this war, this 'Black Cat' Division has won seven. 14 D.S.O.s 93 M.C.s, 74 I.D.S.M.s, 165 M.M.s and two Russian decorations have been received by them. Other awards are: Bar DSO 5, DCM 5, IOM 20, Bar IDSM 1, Bar MC 2, Bar MM4, OBE 2, MBE 9, OBI 4, BEM 1 and CBE 1. 156 Certificates of Gallantry or Commendation Cards have also been received by troops of this Division in addition to the awards.

The Indian Army fighting in Burma has contributed to the victory in Burma and fully realized

The Indian Army Divisions comprising of Indian and British troops form a major proportion of the 14th. Army and the victory in Burma is largely due to their gallant fighting upholding the traditions of the Indian Army. The 'Black Cats', taking advantage of their previous experience in Burma, have always sprung a surprise on the enemy and outwitted him in addition to vanquishing him.

ends

Mani
Capt. 29/5
Indian Army Observer
HQ 17 Ind. Div.

without any loss he accomplished his task in 26 hours.

He received his M.C. ~~for his~~ ^{at in 1945} for his courageous initiative in the battle of Taungtha. Given an area to reconnoitre, on arrival he noticed 150 Japs in bunker positions protecting a big ammunition, clothing and ration dump. Immediately without wasting any time, on his own ~~initiative~~ ^{initiative}, he led his company in a brilliant charge killing 85 Japs and took five prisoners besides capturing the dumps. In his company there was only one slightly wounded casualty,-- so completely surprised were the enemy.

Major Korla holds ^a record in the 17th. Indian Division for clearing a strongly-held village in 15 minutes. In Meiktila, at the village of Magygon, when a Gurkha company was held up by heavy machine gun fire, he was given the task of clearing the village in 15 minutes. It was already nearing dusk and it was essential to clear it before night as the right flank of our position in the town was exposed to enemy fire and we could not have held the position without the village. Leading his men once again in a charge and supported by heavy artillery, within 15 minutes he cleared the village killing 35 and capturing four.

The best charger in the 17 Ind. Div., at Pt. 850 in Meiktila he surpassed his previous performances and by his gallant efforts, ended the battle for Meiktila in our favour. The feature was a strongly-held Jap observation post from where having a grandstand view of our positions, they were harassing our troops. Once again, the ^{difficult} task was his ~~task~~ as he had to climb a steep and ~~task~~ control over troops was impossible ^{due to} the broken ground covered with thick scrub jungle and dense bamboos. There were deep nullahs to be crossed with enemy bunker positions on their banks. Added to that, the visibility was five yards and ~~the~~ enemy opened up with all fury from 75mm guns, anti-tank guns, machine guns and grenades. With artillery and tank support, ^{and} with great dash and speed, ~~he~~ his company charged with bayonets from the enemy's rear and he was at their head ^{leading them} all the time. In addition to capturing the feature, his company killed 63 Japs, captured two prisoners and their transport including a jeep. The rest of the Japs in the Meiktila area were in no mood to ignore this commanding feature and they withdrew in the night from the entire area.

Major Korla's Dogra company killed in all 364 Japs and took 23 prisoners in the Meiktila area.

ends

Mani: Indian Army Observer
30.5.45

17/4A

Pynwagon, May 30: During the 17 Ind. Div's push to within 28 miles of Rangoon, one battery of Punjabi gunners chose the same gun-area they had occupied in 1942.

At Hlegu, where Indian troops of 4 Corps linked up with those of 15 Corps, Major A.W. Lichfield of Bombay, with the battery since 1942 and now commanding them, decided to harbour in the same area they had previously occupied.

Most of the Punjabis knew the ground and took up exactly the same positions as before. Their memories went back to those days when the whole battery had between them only 14 rifles and no machine guns. Things were different now and they were conscious of their striking power.

At ~~Naktil~~ meiktila, they had a tough time but their guns never stopped speaking. They silenced within five minutes a Jap gun causing heavy casualties. Officers directing fire and observing had to expose themselves to enemy fire but even through the thickest street fighting, this battery always had its observation posts.

ends

Mani
Capt
30/5

JAP SWAN SONG IN PEGU YOMAS

PEGU YOMAS: Monday: In the thickly-wooded hills of the Pegu Yomas, the Jap 15th. Army is singing its swan-song in the company of wild elephants. The hardships are rather too much for the Nippon soldier in anxious flight. In the hills, it is all rain and floods with no roof or shelter and no food nor friendly hospitality. To run into the plains towards the Shan States or Moulmein would mean certain death or capture. Your movements are reported by the villagers within a short time and those "whizzing" British shells come unannounced while you are bathing in a chaung or hiding in a forest or the "Thunderbolts" drop their eggs on you with the resounding fury of angry Fujiyama. If you attempt to cross the trunk-road, the Indian and British troops are anxiously waiting to pounce on you or their cunning patrols to the foot of the hills catch you unawares. If you approach a Burman, he may turn out to be a guerilla who has been ^{walking} wailing with your very shadow and will ~~xxx~~ ^{aim} a quick one with his sten. And the smiling Karen hillman gives a frown when you ~~xxxxxx~~ ask him for ~~xxxxxx~~ kindness.

Brooding over his ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ own fate and that of his ~~xxx~~ comrades, one Jap soldier says: "I am a warrior of the Imperial Army and I am not one to complain of any shortage of food but seeing my comrades complaining of shortage and losing their trust in their officers, ^{it} makes me think that this Burma campaign has done more to damage the high spirit of our Jap Imperial Army than any other thing". The spirit is broken and damaged sufficiently thanks to Indian and British troops. He complains of 70 men having to share 40 rifles and one sword and a handful of rice and that even the mosquitoes have turned against them.

Pegu Yomas are not more than a thousand feet in height but rises into steep narrow ridges on ^{top of} which runs the only track. ^{The hillside are} It is covered with thick scrub, dense bamboo jungles and tall elephant grass. Numerous chaungs criss-cross and flow in spate. Wild elephants roam destroying bamboo jungles ^{and} causing a heavy din which resounds in the quiet forest. The sight and sound ^{will strike} strikes despair in a humiliated and frustrated spirit.

Small ^{peopled} twenty-populated villages lie scattered about ten miles away from each other. Tonga-robed Karens with pigs and chicken ^{dwell} ~~xxx~~ in them growing their vegetables close to them. They bring their rice from the plains and sit quiet watching the monsoon rains ^{as they smoke their} with the white cigars in their mouth. They welcome us and treat us kindly but to the Japs ^{they} ~~at~~ ^{turn} stern and cold face.

ends

W. J. ...
capt
4/6

MANI:INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER
13.5.45

17/7A

NYAUNGLABIN:JUNE 13: Indian Artillery gun-trains leave Nyaunglabin railway station ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{daily} to have a shoot at the Japs across the Sittang. These twentyfive pounders travel on open goods-waggons towed by a jeep running on a metre-guage line.

Yesterday it was the Rajputs' turn. Within ten minutes of the receipt of a report, the train "steamed off". On arrival at the required position, the bearings were taken and the surveyor got busy ~~xxxxxxx~~ with logarithms. The wireless made contact with the observation post. As they were mounted on the waggons, the guns fired nearly ~~for~~ 40 rounds on the objective.

Patrols on the ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{east} bank of the river have gone out this morning to count the "kill". Large numbers of Japs roam in the rubber plantations on the east ~~bank~~ ^{and} raiding villages for food. They are continually being harassed by our patrols, Burmese guerillas and fire from our guns. ^{with the} As the monsoon ^{of the monsoon,} is increasing in vigour, the countryside and scrub jungles ^{are flooded waist deep} making it more difficult for the enemy in Pegu Yomas to escape to the eastern banks of Sittang. More Japs are leaving their malarial homes in the Yomas and are drifting to its eastern foothills where our 'tiger patrols' and guerillas are waiting to kill them.

ends

13/6.

18 June '45

June 17:

PEGU YOMAS: During the last few weeks, Burmese guerrillas operating in the Pegu Yomas have killed nine Japs, wounded 12 and captured five prisoners. They have been assisted by Burmese and Karen villagers who obtain arms from ^{to} us/harass the Japs when they come foraging ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ for food. Several of them have never handled a sten-gun before but they use it quite efficiently.

Gurkhas have been giving close support to the guerrillas. Two days ago, they caught a party of the enemy in the open paddy fields carrying bundles of mats and bamboos. Dropping their precious loads, the Japs ran for their lives and several of them were wounded or killed.

In these hills, the maps cannot keep pace with the villages. When their rice-fields become fallow, the villagers burn them and migrate to ~~a~~ new area ~~a~~ few miles away. Named after their headman, Karen villages change their names ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ on the death of every headman.

ends

h

10/6.

MANI:Army Observer /17/2.

3 May:Delayed

Milestone 41: Killing 89 Japs in two days, Sikhs and Punjabis and Dogras of the 12 Frontier Force Regiment cleared the eastern side of Pegu town and captured the railway station.

The bridge along the main road across the Pegu river having been blown off by the enemy in his retreat, the Sikhs attempted to cross the river over the railway bridge but as they approached, the Japs blew off this one too. A platoon wading across the waist deep river killed 12 Japs who had automatics and took up a position on the south bank. Fifty to sixty Japs dug in fox-holes offered stubborn resistance. Another platoon moving on the flank attacked the entrenched enemy killing another 20. There was night-long exchange of heavy fire. Early next morning the battalion killed another six Japs while two platoons of Pathans crossing the river at another point and established a bridgehead. The Punjabis moving along the railway line captured the railway station against quite heavy opposition from MMGs, mortars, and dischargers. The Dogras also advanced to the station after clearing a chaung where the enemy had built strong defences. The Dogras and Punjabis themselves accounted for 45 enemy killed.

An interesting sidelight of this attack by the battalion was that 40 railway trollies lying alongside the railway line were loaded by our troops with ammunition and other stores since they could not take their vehicles across the river which was in spate. The loaded trollies were pushed to the broken railway bridge where they were stripped into pieces and reassembled on the other side of the bridge and the trollies pushed once again to where the fighting was. The trollies also carried four POWs whom they captured. This trolley train has been dubbed by the troops as "PEGU EXPRESS"

Besides capturing a large number of small arms this battalion also captured two 75mm guns.

ends

*Wain
Capt
S/K*

Milestone 73 from Rangoon: May 4: In a small action on May 2, Punjabi Muslims of the 7th Rajput Regiment engaged a very strong enemy position near M.S. 40 killing 15 Japs and wounding an equal number.

As the supporting infantry of an armoured column, they came upon a Jap position on undulating ground where the enemy had constructed fake bunkers on the forward slopes while the real ones with machine guns were on the reverse slopes. The Punjabis under the command of Capt. R.L. Sen of Calcutta, slowly crept forward in the light of the dusk avoiding booby traps hanging from trees and mines scattered over the ground. When they reached their objective, they hurled grenades at the real bunkers with Subedar Rafiuddin of village Kurla Khondra, Jullunder, who egged his men on to play merry with the Japs. L/Nk. Ali Mohamed of village Malkotarad, Jullunder, himself cleared one bunker. When our troops withdrew because of the darkness they had killed 15 of the enemy and wounded an equal number. The rest of the enemy fled.

Unaware of this, ~~later~~ ^{later in the night} another party of Japs approached the position in motor transports with their lights fully illuminating the rain that was coming down in torrents but were forced to make a quick about turn as our heavy ^{guns} opened on them.

The advance of the armoured column is now held up at M.S. 32 owing to a bridge being blown off by the enemy in their retreat. As our troops were reconnoitering for another crossing the enemy blew another bridge on ~~the~~ a diversion ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~time~~ as our tanks approached it. But sappers are building a Bailey bridge on the main road and with the reputation of the Madras Sappers the delay will last a few hours only. Yesterday, the Madras Sappers ~~had~~ neutralised nearly 500 mines along the road over a distance of only eight miles. While clearing the 200 and 500 pound aerial bombs concealed under the road and the sides, two of them were killed. The Japs aimed at delaying our advance with these mines and booby traps but so far they have not succeeded.

In the frontline there is great jubilation today over the capture of Rangoon by other Indian troops though a keen sense of disappointment is felt among them over having missed the chance of entering into Rangoon first.

ends

MILESTONE 32: 4 May: Displaying a keen sense of observation and presence of mind and resorting to quick action, a jeep driver of Indian Public Relations wounded a Jap dressed in Burmese clothes and captured him prisoner. ~~today.~~

While driving along the road ~~near~~ in the frontline, Driver Sepoy Riuna Shah of village Jitaria, district Chhupra, Bihar, stopped his vehicle and walked ~~off~~ ^{off the road} a little distance to purchase the eggs and chicken that the villagers were offering to sell. As he was returning, he noticed a man in Burmese clothes not far away from him and since his looks were suspicious, our driver ordered him to stop when the man pulled out a grenade from the Burmese bag that he was carrying but which slipped and fell from his hand. Without wasting a moment, Driver Riuna Shah-- smart and well-built with typical Binari looks-- levelled his rifle at the Jap in disguise ~~and fired at him several times. The Jap with his second~~ ~~xxx~~ whereon the Jap shouted 'No shooting' in English. Riuna Shah calmly replied 'Tairo' in Hindustani and at the same moment fired three rounds. The enemy was wounded severely in the shoulder, hip and thigh and our driver made him prisoner till the Military Police arrived on the scene and took charge of the prisoner.

While narrating the story to me, our driver told me: "I can always see through a Jap's disguise".

ends

Mani
Capt 9/5
Indian Army Observer

MANI: INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER

12

17/5

HLEGU EAST: May 6: Supported by Stuart tanks of the 7th. Indian Cavalry and armoured cars of the 16th. Indian Cavalry, troops of the 7th. Gurkha Rifles have captured ~~xxx~~ today the town of Hlegu, 28 miles from Ranghōn on the main road. An Indian Field Regiment firing 25 pounders gave artillery support.

Last night a guerilla platoon of Gurkhas crept round the town and bumped against the enemy. They withdrew and established themselves at a junction of cross-roads on the east side of the town. This morning another company of Gurkhas joined them and after nearly 30 ^{at the junction} mines/had been neutralised by the Madras Sappers, they mopped up the eastern side of the town. The bridge linking up the two parts of the town along the main road was blown up by the enemy in their retreat.

Under a smoke screen this morning, swinging from girder to girder below the broken bridge in a picturesque fashion not very dissimilar to real guerillas, a company of Gurkhas crossed the chaung and established a bridgehead with the aid of their own mortars and covering fire from the machine-guns of the 13 Frontier Force Rifles. The Japs fled leaving behind four dead and an LMG.

As there were still some enemy left on the west side of the town, a troop of ^{Indian} Stuarts ~~maxs~~ were rushed and a heavy concentration of artillery from the Indian Field guns poured on the enemy. The mopping up is still going on and the sound of machine guns and tanks could still be heard.

W ends

MANI 6/5
Capt
Indian Army
Observer

HLEGU; May 6: British ~~xxxxx~~ and infantry troops and Indian cavalry of the 26th. Indian Division coming north from Rangoon and Indian troops of the 17th. Indian Division have linked up at Hlegu.

Gurkhas were the first to greet the southern visitors with cheers of welcome. But when they heard the distant noise of the soft vehicles, they were more than surprised and everyone went for his weapon and saw in the distance tommy guns and rifles facing them. And as the Rangoon party came nearer, the Gurkhas lowered their weapons and beamed with their characteristic smile.

The bridge along the road at this place having been blown off by the Japs, officers and troops of either divisions went over to each other's side in floating rafts.

This link-up culminates in the ~~xxxxx~~ capture ~~xxxxx~~ of the life-line of Burma, the 442 mile-long Mandalay-Rangoon road. The monsoon has just set in and the biggest line of communication which is an all-weather road is now ours. And this also marks the end of the last stage in the Battle of Burma although several thousands of the enemy still remain on the Burmese soil and whose fate has been sealed.

ends

~~XXXXX~~ PEGU, May 14: Striding down the Mandalay-Rangoon road like a blazing comet, Indian cavalry units under the command of an Indian colonel played a prominent part as the advance column of the 17th. Indian Division in its push towards Rangoon. While the honour of entering Rangoon fell to other troops, the evacuation of Rangoon by the Japs has been to a large extent due to the lightning speed with which this column was ^{approaching} ~~advancing~~ towards the capital of Burma. Evidences are the mines and booby-traps in thousands left by the enemy all along the road to the south and the ~~many~~ Jap pockets of resistance on the sides of the road to delay our entry^{to} to Rangoon.

During the few weeks I have been with ~~them~~ ^{this column} I watched with intense admiration the swiftness, efficiency and cohesion with which this column was advancing unhampered by the pre-monsoon rains, the tidal chaungs and rivers and the enemy's delaying tactics. The distinguished commander of this column, Lt. Col. ^{J.N.} Chaudhuri, ^{O.D.E.} of the 16th. Light Cavalry, ^{by his remarkable leadership} ~~infused~~ ^{infused} ~~with~~ ~~confidence~~ confidence, enthusiasm and energy into the Indian and British troops under his command to such an extent that the pass-word on the lips of every one of them was 'RANGOON'. ~~XXXX~~ Individual and group plans as to how the first few hours in Rangoon were to be spent contributed in no small measure to the speed of the column.

The units under this 37 year old Colonel were: one regiment of armoured cars of the 16th. Light Cavalry, one squadron of Stuart tanks^{of the 7th. Light Cavalry}, one squadron of Sherman tanks of the 5th. Probyn's Horse, one company of ~~xxx~~ a battalion of the 7th. Rajput Regiment, a battery of self-propelled guns of the British 18th. Field Regiment, two sections of the Madras Sappers and Miners, a visual control panel of the R.A.F. and a section of an advance dressing station. "The success achieved would not have been possible but for the magnificent cooperation of both the Indian and British ^{troops} ~~units~~ under my command", said Lt. Col. Chaudhuri to me describing the part played by every unit. The dash across 34 miles of the road from Piyagale to Pegu in four days during which 756 mines were neutralised over a distance of only four miles and stiff enemy pockets were cleared was the most remarkable stride of this column.

The admiration of the commander and his men are mutual. "We couldn't have had a better commander, a better time or a better deal" said Capt. E.W. Penny of Childwal, Lancashire. His Indian second-in-command; summed up in few brief words: "The finest leader I Have ever worked under". With a high sense of humour and great admiration for the crew of his armoured cars,

Lt.Col. Chaudhuri commands the oldest cavalry regiment in the Indian Army, the 16th. Light Cavalry, which is the old 2nd. Madras Lancers and has the unique honour of having the King Emperor as its C-in-C. He has a joke to offer to everyone he meets from the highest officer to a private soldier but does not tolerate even the least inefficiency. He is loved and respected by his officers and men and when he gathered them in parade to inform them how sorry he felt that he was not able to lead his men into Rangoon, I noticed a few of them on the verge of tears looking at him with awe, love and respect.

ends

Pinwagon, May 17: One troop^{of} Indian Stuart tanks have the distinction of having operated on all the 14th. Army fronts in Central and Southern Burma.

Under the command of Lt. Harpratap Singh, 7th. Light Cavalry, of Daudpur, district Ludhiana, these Indian tankmen have taken their tanks ~~xxxxx2000xxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ from ~~Man~~ Manipur to within 28 miles of Rangoon, over 2000 miles across rugged country not long ago unsurmountable. These Stuart's tracks have tread along Tiddim Road and its Chocolate Staircase, across Kabaw Valley (the valley of Death), along the Irrawady bridgehead, across the scrubby jungle plains of Central Burma and along the road from Mandalay to Rangoon.

For more than a year in operation, this troop has fought not less than 50 battles, all of them successful. They have killed more than 150 Japs, destroyed or captured two anti-tank guns, and lots of equipment. ~~LixingxxxxxixxxxxcapturedxxxxxxJapxxx~~ The first Jap prisoner captured by troops of the 23 Indian Division in ~~Manipur~~ Manipur was captured by Lt. Singh.

This troop has operated with five different Divs. Along with 20 Ind. Div. in the famous battle of Talingon on the Irrawady, they killed 35 Japs out of a total of 513 Japs killed. In the swinging battle lasting for seven days, mostly by night, where ~~armour~~ penetration was most difficult owing to the thickly wooded village, these Indian tanks performed bunker-bursting with great skill and deft manoeuvre.

As leading tanks of the armoured spearhead of 17 Ind. Division's advance towards Rangoon, they traversed heavily mined roads and assisted the infantry in mopping up odd enemy parties. While the battle for Pegu was in progress, they carried out a daring ~~xxxxxx~~ 23 mile recce behind the enemy across country.

ends

Mani
 Capt 17/9
 Indian Army
 Observer

of having operated on all the 14th Army fronts in Central and Southern Burma.

Under the command of Lt. Colonel Singh, 7th Light Cavalry, of Dandur, district of Manipur, these Indian tankmen have taken their tanks across the country to within 28 miles of Rangoon, over 200 miles across the country not long ago unmountainable. These tanks have been used along the road and the Chocolate Mountains, across the valley of the (the valley of Death), along the highway, across the scrubby jungle plains of Central Burma and along the road from Mandalay to Rangoon.

For more than a year in operation, this troop has fought not less than 50 battles, all of them successful. They have killed more than 150 Japs, destroyed or captured two anti-tank guns and lots of equipment. Sixty prisoners of the 23 Indian Division in first Jap prisoner captured by troops of the 23 Indian Division in Manipur was captured by Lt. Singh.

CAPT. MANI
 INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER

Wok
 17th Indian Division

This troop has operated with five different Divs. Along with 20 Ind. Div. in the famous battle of Taingon on the highway, they killed 35 Japs out of a total of 515 Japs killed in the swinging battle lasting for seven days, mostly by night, where narrow penetration was most difficult owing to the thickly wooded village, these Indian tanks performed bunker-busting with great skill and deft manoeuvre.

As leading tanks of the armoured spearhead of 17 Ind. Division's advance towards Rangoon, they traversed heavily mined roads and assisted the infantry in mopping up odd enemy parties. While the battle for Pegu was in progress, they carried out a daring 27 mile recess behind the enemy across country.

ends

Mani
 17/2
 Wok
 17th Indian Division

MESSAGE FORM


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Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	Originator 20 Div	Date-Time of Origin 11 1832	OFFICE DATE STAMP
	For Action		
TO	33 Corps 14 Army	(W) For Information (INFO)	
Message Instructions			GR

Originator's No.

~~1/9000 RESTRICTED(.) FLASH FOR INDIAN PUBLIC RELATIONS FROM MANI(.)~~

~~INDIAN TROOPS OF MAJ GEN GRACEYS 20 INDIAN DIVISION HAVE CUT THE RAILWAY
LINE AND ROAD NEAR TANAUNGAIG NEAR 15 MS FROM AVA ON THE SAGAING HYPHEN
MYENGYAN METRE GAUGE LINE WHICH IS ONE OF THE LINES OF RETREAT OF THE ENEMY
FROM MANDALAY(.). THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION AT TANAUNGAIG BUT OUR TROOPS
HAD A FAIRLY HEAVY OPPOSITION AT NATTHADOW (.) DURING THE~~

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT } WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER

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FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

For Action **CONTINUED PAGE TWO**

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions — GR —

Originator's No. **CONTINUED LAST THREE DAYS THIS FORWARD FORMATION HAVE BEEN MAKING A SPEEDY AND DASHING ADVANCE INFLECTING QUITE HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY AND TILL YESTER EVENING THEIR BOOTY INCLUDED NINE GUNS 17 LORRIES ONE STAFF CAR COMMA PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF A HIGH RANKING OFFICER AND A TRUCK LOAD OF DOCUMENTS(.) ESTIMATION OF ENEMY CASUALTIES RENDERED DIFFICULT OWING TO THE LARGE NUMBER INFLECTED INDEPENDENTLY BY OUR**

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT } WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER.

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TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

PAGE THREE INFANTRY ARTILLERY AND TANKS(.) EARLIER CONGRATULATIN

HIS OFFICERS AND MEN ON THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE SINCE ESTABLISHING
THE MYNMMU/ BRIDGEHEAD ACROSS THE IRRWADY COMMA MAJ HYPHEN GEN DOUGLASGRACEY COMMA CBE COMMA MG THANKED THEM FOR THEIR EFFORTS CONTRIBUTING
TO THE SUCCESS OF THE RECENT SPEEDY DASHING AND COMPLICATED OPERATIONS(.)
FIGHTING IN OPPRESSIVE HEAT INCREASINGLY UNBEARABLE ~~MY~~THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT }

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHERORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
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