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NEWSPAPER POST

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LONDON F.S. 152

from:
The Guardian Weekly
164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, England

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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 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 certificates to 16 successful cadets of whom eight are to appear before the Selection Board 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 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. Shan 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.
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: "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 in the Indian Army."

The Fifth has the unique record of having fought all the Axis partners; they 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 Pempura, Jodhpur State and with 28 years service in the army said as soon as he heard the news: "We rejoice 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 soldier.

ends

His father Rai Sahib Sunder Singh, who was formerly an Executive Engineer in the Burma Railways, supervised the first laying of the railway line from Maungdaw to Buthidaung little knowing at the time that his son, years later, would win the Distinguished Service Order in battle not very many miles to the south of this railway. It was at Ngakyedauk that Lt. Col. Kalha, in temporary command of this battalion, at the time, displayed skilful planning and bold execution by which he opened the Pass to the relief of the besieged Seventh Indian Division.

After graduating from the Khalsa College, Amritsar, in 1935 he was commissioned at the Indian Military Academy. He saw service in Wazirstan, 1936-1937 and since then has been with this battalion in the Fifth Indian Division.

He has three brothers as officers in the army among whom is Lt. Col. R.S. Kalha who is an Assistant Director of Survey at an Army HQ.
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for PR alfa sea

from mani army observer

johore september seven stop an ex prisoner of war came to the rescue of a rajput staff car which was stuck up on the johore trunk road with engine trouble under quite dramatic circumstances stop sgt (13460) james baynes of sixtyseven lons road dundee scotland was marching along with other australian ex prisoners when they came across the staff car with several rajput officers peeping inside the bonnet stop australians hailed the question quote you want our best mechanic unquote and when the reply yes came sgt baynes set the car running within a few minutes stop he was no mechanic but a rubber planter in malaya who volunteered with the australian forces stop he had been for eight years in malaya before he volunteered during the emergency and speaks good tamil and malay ends
Johore September Seven stop Majputs 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 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 and were welcomed all along the road by Indian, Australian and British troops who had been prisoners with the Japs stop One Aussie exclaimed to me quote Indian soldiers aren’t 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 two stop two first cousins from Fontwell Sussex had a pleasant reunion after twentyfour years when they met outside a prisoner of war camp where (A1.493) Major Allen Robinson Ninth Gurkha Rifles son of Dr. 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 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 five years old so that eye could not recognise him easily stop He had 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
The venue of a picturesque ceremony this afternoon was Government House, Singapore. The Punjabis hoisted the Union Jack over it after searching for an hour for a local Chinese school to give them one. After searching, the Japanese guard was dismissed and taken to their camp. Lt. Col. Sarbjeet Singh Kalha, D.S.O., commanding the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Punjab Regiment marched his troops and mounted the guard. The Chinese dragon crests on their berets were glittering in the midday sun as they stepped smartly quite proud of their achievements. The ceremony was perfect except for the band immediately after an advance party from SEAC headquarters moved into Government House.
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 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 up to fanatical and determined attacks by
overwhelming numbers for three days continuously stop after
fighting nearly fifteen months they flown 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 ngakyedauk 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 distinguished service
orders seven military cross and several other awards stop
flown as leading troops of the fifth indian
division to besieged imphal when the japs threatened the safety
of India they defended the quote litun 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 distinguished award stop in the liberation
of Burma they fought on the battlefields stretching from Meiktila
to Pau and Moksitwa stop these Punjabis entered Singapore with
hundred and fifteen awards to their credit in this war ends.
singapore september sixth two men from Leicester were overjoyed 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 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 Snutch hesitated for a moment and then advancing to ac Lacej 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 nourishment but since our troops came am improving taken care of unquote said he tome stop Quote hope to be on my way home soon unquote stop Next to him another Australian prisoner hailed Quote Johnny unquote to a Gurkha and questioned him Quote Gurkha unquote stop Quote Ji unquote replied the stocky Nepalese and immediately they shook hands and embraced each other stop ends
Singapore September fifth stop Indian and British troops of the fifth Indian division landed at 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 cordial reception by the Chinese Indian and Malay residents who hung flags and festoons and cheered stop Second battalion of the first Punjab regiment 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 Japanese army was polite and generally behaved well stop Incidents were to be avoided and hence it was a delicate operation stop Taking over guards at key points 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 The 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 After they were marched away to a central camp with their kit by our escort, our guard took their positions stop It seemed that the Jap 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 at the focal point of Southeast Asia stop The Fifth Indian division smashed every one of the Axis triumvirate and it is fitting that they should be given the honour of reoccupying this bastion ends
For PRA alfsea
from mani armv observer

Singapore September twelfth begins General Itagaki with credentials and seal from field Marshal Count Terauchi commander of the Jap expeditionary force southern regions along with his ten generals surrender in person this morning to Lord Louis Mountbatten supreme allied commander sea stop Brigadier Kay Yess Thimayya DSO represented the Indian army at the function while Capt Maharaja of Cooch Behar and Lieutenant Colonel Anor Ali represented the Indian states stop The 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 supreme 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 supreme retired to his room in the building stop Meanwhile General Itagaki and his party were escorted into the hall by senior officers among whom was Lieutenant Colonel Sarbjeet Singh Kalha DSO commanding the second battalion of the first Punjab regiment stop The supreme entered after a few minutes and after reading out a message from Count Terrauchi regretting his inability to be present on the occasion and empowering General Itagaki with full powers to surrender came to read the surrender document to be signed by the Jap general stop General Itagaki signed eleven copies of the document not forgetting to stamp the seal of the Jap count and his own stop Everyone of these copies was countersigned by the supreme 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 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 privileged positions at the function cheered the supreme stop Quote we were forced to be present at a similar function the Japs held in 1942 but today we all came voluntarily to take part and cheer in today's function unquote said a group of Chinese to me stop
Batavia, september 29:

For Public Relations Service Singapore please pass PR Alfsea 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 prick 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 pallava comma quote cholas comma quote gupta unquote periods of indian history stop though not fully conversant the indian quote jawan unquote 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
singapore september eleven stop on the eve of victory day stop at singapore comma at a crowded press conference in government house lord louis mountbatten 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 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 he also revealed that the greatest tribute to the fourteenth army came from gen kimura comd jap 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 of the cease fire order stop unquote stop talking about 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 commando 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 sea to the north coast of the arabian sea to our new easternmost boundaries is greater than from the north west corner of sea 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 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
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 but always on second thought they knew that one day their own countrymen 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 I related to them the exploits of the Indian army and of India's thirty-one Victoria crosses stop they rejoiced when our troops first landed and embraced us in typical Indian fashion heart to heart stop their joy was doubled when they found food and medicine coming down to them from the skies like manna in the wilderness stop most of them realising that all this needed extensive and long preparation 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 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 near the village well he had bidden goodbye to his young wife to whom he has now sent a message saying that he would be seeing her before long stop another asked me how the people at home had borne 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 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 from their swift running trucks at the long line of the Nipponese army marching out of the island towards their concentration area in the mainland stop
for PR alfsa
from mani army observer

singapore september begins when jap guards at sembawang airstrip allowed the civilians to loot the valuable stores therein. indian prisoners of war could not bear to see the loss stop hence acting on their own initiative the mysores 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 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 major mir sarafraz hussain number of the first mysore infantry directed the disarming the hundred and twenty jap guards and established our own guards stop 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

singapore september twelfth begins general itagaki xuxxxuxdxxxix
xxixxxxxxxixxxixxxxx with credential and seal from field marshal
terauchi xzpxxcommander of the jap expeditionary force southern
regions xzxxaxzxxaxxxixxxmasx axxxix along with his ten generals
surrendered this morning to lord louis mountbatten supreme allied
commander sea stop alangxxithxxmasxaxxxmxxaxxxa xlxkxxa brigadier
kay yess thimayya also represented the indian army at the function
while capt maharaja of cooch behar and lieutenant colonel
air li represented the indian states stop the
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 supreme 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 supreme retired to his room in the building stop meanwhile
general itagaki and his party were escorted into the hall
by senior officers among whom was lieutenant colonel sarbject
singh kaila also afixxx commanding the second battalion of the
first punjab regiment stop xuxxxuxdxxxixxxix xxxxxxx the supreme entered after a few minutes and xxxxxxx
xxx after reading out a message from count terauchi regretting
his inability to be present on the occasion and empowering
general itagaki with full powers to surrender xmp comma
read the surrender document to be signed by the jap general
stop general itagaki signed eleven copies of the document not
forgetting to fixxxxx stamp the seal of the jap count and his own
stop everyone of these copies was countersigned by the supreme
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 privileged
positions at the function cheered the supreme stop quote we
were forced to be present at a similar function the japs held
in 1942 but today we all came voluntarily to take part and
cheer in today's function unquote said a group of chinese to me
ends
for PR alfsea
from mani army observer

the two thousand
singapore september eighth begins among 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 port of call is madras where extensive arrangements for their reception have been made stop the others of the party are mostly from service corps 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 risalader ekma dilaura and devonshire stop british officers are also travelling ninety percent of whom have elected to go to india first in the company of their men stop general auchinleck punjabis have occupied the northwest area 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 sikhs 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 from where commences the zone occupied by the navy stop at a jap medical headquarters 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 four by our time stop ends

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

Mani
Capt
8/9
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 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 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
For PR alifsee
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 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
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former military police headquarters with searching and undisturbed looks at the building which was the dread of the
Singapore public stop two Indians quote jawans unquote sepoy amilal
Hindu Jat of village Lad state Jind and Naik Mahbub 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

[Signature]
22/9
From Mafi 

Singapore, September Seventeenth Begins Madrasi Soldiers Are Not New to Malaya Stop In 1831 Comma 150 Men of the 29 Madras Infantry With Only Two Guns Landed in Malacca to Reduce a Refractory Chief Stop Against Superior Numbers They Defended the Stockaded Post at Soonga Pattye and Though the Garrison Was Reduced to One Barrel of Powder Every Wounded Man Never Relaxed His Hold on the Trigger Till Reinforcements Arrived All the Way from Madras Stop More Than Hundred Years Later the One Stroke Three Madras Regiment Have Arrived in Singapore But This Time With Hundreds of Guns Stop They Were Welcomed by the Large Local Madrasi Population and the Madras Sappers Who Had Become Prisoners of War Stop They Are Now Guarding Ordnance Dumps Warehouses Factories and Docks to Prevent Looting Stop These Are the Men Who Fought Pitched Battles Against the Japs in the Shadow of the Mighty Hood of the King Cobra at Mount Popa in Burma Stop Ends.
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 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 and dug in new positions in the 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 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
KANMA, 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 stepped into the chaung they were engaged by our artillery. Results of this pounding have not yet come in.

MAN/3A/ ends

Mar 9: Since crossing the Irrawaddy 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 somewhat disorganized.

Our troops are fighting in rocky undulating country 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 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, a Muslim Rajput of village Kalanur, district Rohtak, Punjab. He and Hav. Mubarak Ali, also Muslim Rajput from village Larhi, district Rohtak, were part of the machine gun platoon which attacked the enemy killing five and wounding several more who escaped.
YWABO, MYINMU BRIDGEHEAD, Mar 10: Indicative of the fairly disorganised state of the enemy on this front, several new factors have been noticed of late.

The Japs have been disarming 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 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'.

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.
Dwehla, 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 Bilin, 26 miles south of Mandalay. Gurkhas have established a road-block.

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, across country and wading through rivers and chaussees. 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. They also captured 17 bullock-carts loaded with 75mm ammunition. The Punjabis in a minor clash killed 15 of the enemy.

Killing 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 indifference that one of our liaison officers had just 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 MMs and two mortars were captured.

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

ends
The patrol is coming back just now -- an armoured car patrol 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 confirm to this and there to my south a few thousand yards away are two large gires -- 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 14-mile reconnaissance under the command of Capt. M. Ashraf Khan 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. At every village the villagers showed him the enemy positions and in one village donning the steel helmets supplied waving their dahs shouted and pointed out the Japs who were bolting on a road with their 70mm gun loaded on a bullock-cart which they had confiscated from these villagers. The energy 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
Myotha, Mar 13: An armoured column of the 20th Indian Division have occupied an area in Myotha, the town of monasteries, 24 miles south of Ava on the Sagaing–Myingyan Railway. There was no enemy opposition but as soon we arrived Gurkha troops went chasing after a solitary Jap who happened to be hanging round near our perimeter.

The column is composed of a renowned Indian Cavalry regiment which played a distinguished role with the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade at Bir Hakim in the Western Desert and troops of the 10th Gurkha Rifles.

I joined the column near a patch in the wilderness about two miles north of Myotha where they were poised to strike. It was a moonless cold night without any events. As I lay on a truck, I saw the sky frolicsome with shooting stars yet symphonic with the din of our own guns from far away and the muffled peals of an airstrike that our bombers were making a few miles away. Huge fires were raging on the skyline on three sides of us. In between this weird music of war there was an eerie quiet somewhat disturbing to the mind. I was reminded of civilisation now and then only by the 'rat-a-tat' of his bullock-cart as the Burmese villager drove along the road shouting 'hey hey'. Perhaps he was coming away from his village with all his belongings since the Japs set fire to it. Of late, the enemy has been attempting to scorch the villages in the wake of his retreat.

This morning I set out with the column, not in the armoured cars which were trudging across fields and gardens but in a Dodge truck that accompanied them. Last night our patrols reported that there was no sign of the enemy in the north-east monastery area of the town. In less than an hour we reached our objective after taking a devious route in order to avoid enemy observation and the armoured cars with the infantry entered Myotha as per our plan and combed the area for any lurking Jap. We passed a pagoda and several buildings raised to the ground as a result of Jap vandalism. I notice the precalculated effects of our bombing too and it was quite easy to discern the chivalrous hand of the Bushido! Utter desolation hung over the place as we drove down the road with not even a crow to run away frightened at our arrival. Life seemed to be dead till the cheerful Sikh driver next to me cut a joke with his friend behind.

We now occupy what was previously a Burmese cotton mill which has been reduced to ashes from which it will never spring up again except with the help of the Phoenix. About 20 yards away from me a smouldering fire is the last remains of a dump of cotton. But in the distance I hear rifle shots and as I write this despatch more news trickles in. One of our patrols report that they have captured a Jap 70mm gun, killed three and wounded several more. It seems as though our Gurkhas are out taking prisoners and are one with Brutus to kill the adder in...
Kanma, south-east of Myánnmu: 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 Myothaxxxx.

Three 100mm howitzers, three 75mm guns, two 47mm antitank guns, one 70mm battalion gun, some of them complete with sights and periscopes, were part of this captured 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 inflicted by our infantry, tanks and artillery, 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

Mar: 11: Congratulating his officers and men today on their excellent performance prior to and since crossing the Irrawaddy, 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.

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
Capt. Rao, IPRO, HQ 33 Corps.

ARMY OBSERVER

MANI

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 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. Rao, IPRO, HQ 33 Corps.

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 Woundwin.

It must be remembered that Woundwin 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 Chaungwya 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 Gurkhas laid a road block three miles east of Pinze on the main road. Two ammunition carrying Jap 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 lines. Jem. Jayakishen when chided by his company commander for firing nearly 500 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 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 Chaungwya.
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 officer's mess. It appears that 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 disorganized, 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 south of the town between 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 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 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 the 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 poisoned a particular village with a large number of Japs, killing nearly a fifty of them. The recipe seems to be some peculiar medicated toddy which first stupefies the victim.

ends
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 defences that the Japs had established on the banks of the river.

Enemy defences included a large number of anti-tank ditches, long connecting tunnels with machine gun posts 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 the mines, they advanced after clearing the cactus position and very soon the entire village was blazing under our fire.

Sepoy 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 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.

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
NYAUNGWUN, March 27: Operating on the right flank of 33 Corps, Maj-Gen Gracey's 20th Indian Division has already accounted for 3009 Japs definitely killed since they crossed the Chindwin early in December last. The total since they launched their offensive across the Irrawaddy in the middle of February alone amounts to 2407 Jap bodies counted and their toll of prisoners is now 65. 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 up to date.

The degree of surprise achieved by 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 coal containing wagon loads of ammunition and equipment, the hurried evacuation of an enemy hospital leaving behind 23 wounded Japs to become our prisoners and large quantities of abandoned stores and equipment are several instances.

The large number of awards won by troops of this Division is also indicative of the contribution it had 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 IOMs, two Bar/MC, 87 MCs, two Bar/MM, 129 MMs and 64 Certificates of Gallantry are the figures up to the middle of March. Behind this success of the Division lies the unspiring efforts of its British and Indian troops. Everyone, infantry, cavalry, artillery, signals, medical and other services... all played a worthy role and lived up to their reputation.

Soon after crossing the Irrawaddy, a battalion of the 13 Frontier Force Rifles distinguished themselves by repelling several strong attacks by the enemy to wrest our positions at Kanian 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 the Frontier held their ground firmly and finally forced 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 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 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 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 at the heels of the enemy and never gave him any respite. Dashing across country 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 gun 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 Irrawaddy sinking it every ten yards 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 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 Irrawaddy 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 Irrawaddy 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
NYAUNGWUN, Mar 28: Working under heavy 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
the enemy.

Gen. Slim has written to them personally appreciating their gallantry.

ends

MAN/19A/Mar 29: Northants

Caught in a Jap ambush on their way to obtain identifications of a "dead" Jap, Corporal Sam Sherman of 18 Hampton Road, Boulton, Lancs., and Pte. Harry Bell of Gorton Road, Lower Openshaw, Manchester, made good their escape after killing one Jap and wounding another. Pte. Bell himself was slightly wounded.

A "dead" enemy was reported outside their perimeter and as the two were proceeding towards the body, seven Japs pounced in on them with grenades. Quickly lying down in the tall grass and crawling they escaped but the enemy was swiping the field with his machine guns. Firing their rifles, they killed one Jap and wounded another.

ends

MAN/20A/Mar 29: Northants

Three British cooks and a Colour Sgt. took up their rifles and walked off with a forward platoon to beat off a fierce Jap attack. They were: Pte. Ronald Salvidge of 35, Cotton Mill Crescent, St. Albans, Herts., L/Cpl Robert Stevenson of 26, Kelvinside Crescent, Banton, Kilsyth, Sterlingshire, Pte. Tom Stanley of 1, Chain Bar Rd, Hattersley, Hyde, Cheshire and C/Sgt. Raymond Henley of 2, Rynsford Rd, Dallington, Northampton.

On the Irrawaddy bridgehead, about 40 Japs lined up and started digging in some hundred yards outside our perimeter when our machine guns opened up fire. Thereafter the Japs put in three fierce attacks screaming and yelling and supported by grenades and MMGs and they were beaten back. Next morning, we counted 14 dead Japs.

"Killing Japs was certainly a good change over from the frying pan", the cooks told me as they handed me a hot jam puff.

ends
KYAUKSE: Mar 31: The last Jap train did not leave Kyaukse station. It was loaded with sewing machines, medical stores, electrical goods, clothing, photographic material, litters of pictorial journals, large quantities of paper enough to last for a year for an entire school and mess furniture including sofa settees. Some of its passengers lay with their bones scattered all over the station yard. 'Shabash' said a jawan 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 Kyaukse. They went to the north and occupied the sluice area. When they went in, there were only four Japs in the town and they were dragging away one .37mm anti-tank 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 stealthily removed the wheels from a Jap gun which they had to abandon in their hurry.

Dogras 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.

Gurkhas and Punjabis having captured the junction of the cross-roads near Myauk Hamyinbo are pushing north towards Kyaukse while Gurkhas are pushing south from the latter town. Main opposition down the road is at the moment mostly from mines and booby traps. But it will not be long before the two converging troops link up and then this formation of the 14th Army would have cleared nearly 52 miles of the main road from Mandalay to Rangoon, from Bilin to Wundwin. Keeping this as the arc, if a sector is drawn with the centre at Myinmu, 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 Myauk Hamyinbo to the east of it.
CAPT. MANI

INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER

WITH THE

20th Indian Division
KYAUKSE FRONT: MAR 29: Inspite 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 countryside making it difficult for our tanks to operate. The whole of Kyaukse district is covered by a network of 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 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 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 bayonetted two of
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

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
Time cleared

Signed
LT. COL.

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

14 Army

33 Corps

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

Background for date 67(.) 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.

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

by Gurkhas and frontier troops. Since the crossing of the Irrawady on Feb 13, 1457 repeat 1457 Jap bodies counted. Total Jap bodies found since Dec 18, comma 2060 repeat 2060 sanding follow-up tomorrow.

P.R.S. Mani
Capt.
From: 20 Div

Originator: 14 Army

TO: 

(W) For Information (INFO)

Originator's No. XXI 19003/ RESTRICTED (.) FOR INDIAN PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR VINEER 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
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 commenced pulling out yester morning after several days.
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 MILE SOUTH OF MYAK HAMINBO THE ENEMY IS STILL RESISTING STRONGLY AS OUR TROOPS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CUT HIS LOC INTO THE
PAGE FOUR SHAN STATES (...) ENDS
Mani: Indian Army Observer
24.5.45
Subedar Mohd. Fazal, M.C.

Pegu, May 24: When the Japs vacated their bunkers to attack a Punjabi patrol a little distance away, the Punjabi patrol under the command of Subedar Mohd. Fazal, M.C., of Chak No. 100/12-L, district Montgomery, gradually occupied them and beat off several strong enemy attacks.

It happened about 12 miles north-west of the Pegu on the thickly jungled banks of the river bearing the same name. In their first clash with 25 Japs, they killed one and wounded two more, before the enemy dispersed.

While sections of the platoon were reconnoitering the area, another party of 50 Japs attacked the main platoon from the rear with LMGs, rifles and grenade dischargers. The Subedar gradually withdrew his men to where he discovered a few bunkers where he decided to stay for the night. The bunkers appeared not completely vacated as some of the Jap kit was still lying there but as there were no Japs in it, the Punjabis occupied it. From this strong defensive position, the Subedar and his men held the enemy fire and beat off one attack when the enemy tried to rush the position. Finally the enemy withdrew with heavy casualties.

"We got in before the Japs did. They lost the position and so lost the battle" said Sub. Mohd. Fazal to me.

ends
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 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.
Pegu, May 24: When Japs vacated their bunkers to attack a Punjabi platoon, Subedar Momd. Fazal, of Chak no. 100/12-L, district Montgomery, in command of the platoon, occupied the well-constructed defensive bunkers and beat off several strong enemy attacks.

Leading a patrol of the 1st Punjub Regiment on the thick-jungled banks of the Pegu river, about 12 miles to the north-west of Pegu town, Subedar 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 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. Establishment
May 28: In the annals of the Indian Army, Meiktila will always be remembered as the battlefield where the heroism and might of the Indian soldier was at its 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 'dauntless courage amounting to heroism, blazing determination to kill even when fatally wounded, supreme devotion to duty, presence of mind, sacrifice is seconded in the annals of War...' for which he has been posthumously awarded the Victoria 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 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 Baluch on this great 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 one night a party of 10 dacoits attacked his village. Chasing them, he broke the leg 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 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 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, this Baluch battalion 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
Pynwegon, 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, IOE 20, Bar IDSM 1, Bar MC 2, Bar MM 4, OBE 9, OBI 4, OBE 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 Divisions comprising Indian and British troops form a major proportion of the 14th Arm 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.
Mani: Indian Army Observer

29.5.45

Major S.K. Korla, D.S.O., M.C.

Photo by Malbeck

India has been recommended for Bar – DSO.

In 1942, from the battlefield at Pa-an in Burma, an Indian Army Observer wrote: "Capt. Korla was an outstanding cadet at the Indian Military Academy and is typical of the officers now leading men of the Indian Army in the defence of India. I have watched him box at the Academy, and I have seen him command his company, the finest martial spirit is there". In 1945, from the battlefield of Pt. 850 in Meiktila, another Indian Army Observer writes: "The martial spirit is still there. In the days of adversity it was gallant but in days of prosperity it has become dashing and has increased in intensity. In all his big battles, Major Korla has always seen his men in spirited bayonet charges against the enemy, himself the first to charge".

Twentyseven year old Major Siri Kanth Korla, D.S.O., M.C., 10th Baluch, from Punjab is an outstanding Officer in the Indian Army. Born in a family of soldiers, he had his early education at King George’s Royal Indian Military School, Jullunder, and joined in the ranks of the 10th Baluch Regiment in 1934. After taking part in the NWF operations of 1936, he received his commission and

He won the D.S.O. in 1942 in Burma for the part he played in the battle of Pa-an. When his company ran out of ammunition during strong attacks by the enemy, leading spirited bayonet charges he brought back ammunition from a dump captured by the enemy. With his pistol and dah, he killed at least ten of the enemy and when the battalion position was overrun, with a few men he remained in his company position shouting Dogra war cries and deceiving the enemy into believing that the position was strongly held. Eventually while evacuating his wounded to a safe place, he was taken prisoner and remained so for 15 hours before killing his guard and reaching back his battalion.

In the same year near Prome, he was mentioned in despatches for ably escorting across country a mule convoy from Zigon to Prome, a distance of 57 miles. The enemy was at their heels only five miles away. The rest of the brigade entrained to Prome leaving 150 mules and 50 mule-carts which he volunteered to escort. Bombed and shelled all along,
without any loss he accomplished his task in 26 hours.

He received his M.C. 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, 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 task was his. He had to climb a steep and control over troops was impossible owing 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, his company charged with bayonets from the enemy's rear and he was at their head 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
Pynwegon, 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 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
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 wailing with your very shadow and will shoot a quick one with his sten. And the smiling Karen hillman gives a frown when you ask him for kindness.

Brooding over his own fate and that of his 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 loosing their trust in their officers, 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.

Pegu Yomas are not more than a thousand feet in height but rise into steep narrow ridges on which runs the only track. 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, causing a heavy din which resounds in the quiet forest. The sight and sound strikes despair in a humiliated and frustrated spirit.

Small twenty-populated villages lie scattered about ten miles away from each other. Tonga-robed Karens with pigs and chicken in them growing their vegetables close to them. They bring their rice from the plains and sit quiet watching the monsoon rains with the white cigar in their mouth. They welcome us and treat us kindly but to the Jap a stern and cold face.
Pegu, June 7: Latest arrival on the Burma front is 29-year old Captain H.H. Sir Jagadipendra Narayan, K.C.I.E., 7th. Cavalry, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, who is serving as a liaison officer with an advanced HQ in Burma. In his present capacity, he has already visited several units and come into close contact with both officers and troops.

This is his first visit to a field area. He said: "My relatives and friends are on active service and so I have been longing to proceed on active service. In 1942, I had almost decided to go to the Middle East but with the outbreak of war with Japan, I could not leave my State."

Educated at Harrow and Cambridge, he ascended the 'gadi' in 1923 on the death of his father. Well-known in Cricket circles in India, he captained the Bengal team for the Ranji Trophy in 1944 and 1945. Polo and tennis are his other favourite games. He is not married yet.

He joined the Indian Army in 1938 and since then had annual training with the 7th. Cavalry. He is also the Colonel-in-Chief of the 1st. Cooch Behar Regiment. His younger brother Major Prince Inderjeet Narayan is also serving on this front with the 11th. Cavalry.

Capt. Cooch, as he is known in the field, has great admiration for the Indian soldier. "All the world ever praises are sung in honour of the Indian soldier but what touched me most was the tribute paid to him by British officers and troops who have fought alongside with him," he said.

ends
NYAUNGLABIN: JUNE 13: Indian Artillery gun-trains leave Nyaunglabin railway station daily to have a shoot at the Japs across the Sittang. These twenty-five pounders travel on open goods-waggons towed by a jeep running on a metre-gauge 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 with logarithms. The wireless made contact with the observation post. As they were mounted on the waggons, the guns fired nearly 40 rounds on the objective.

Patrols on the 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 raid villages for food. They are continually being harassed by our patrols, Burmese guerillas and fire from our guns. As the monsoon increases in vigour, the countryside and scrub jungles are flooded, which makes 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.
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 us to harass the Japs when they come foraging 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 few miles away. Named after their headman, Karen villages change their names on the death of every headman.

ends
3 May: Delayed

Milestone 41: Killing 89 Japs in two days, Sikhs, Punjabis and Dogras of the 12 Frontier Force Regiments 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 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
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, 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 main road and with the reputation of the Madras Sappers the delay will last a few hours only. Yesterday, the Madras Sappers 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, Driver Sepoy Riuna Shah of village Jitaria, district Chhupra, Bihar, stopped his vehicle and walked a little distance off the road 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 Bihari looks, levelled his rifle at the Jap in disguise and shouted '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."
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 Hlegu today the town of Hlegu, 28 miles from Rangoon 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 minutes 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-gunners 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 Stuarts 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.

ends
HLEGU; May 6: British 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 capture 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
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 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 Jap pockets of resistance on the sides of the road to delay our entry to Rangoon.

During the few weeks I have been with 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, 16th Light Cavalry, by his remarkable leadership instilled 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'.

The units under this 37 year old Colonel were: one regiment of armoured cars of the 16th Light Cavalry, one squadron of Sherman tanks of the 5th Probyn's Horse, one company of 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 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
PINWEGON, May 17: Visiting Indian and British troops of the 17th Indian Division in a two-day tour, Lt.Gen. Frank Messervy, Commander of the 4th Corps, congratulated them on the victory they had achieved in Burma. "This Division has played the leading part in the advance from the Irrawaddy onwards and has played the foremost part in the capture of Rangoon", he said. To Indian troops, he spoke in Hindustani: "Tumari mehnatse bahaduri se Burma pakadliya".

In humorous fashion, typical of him, he announced the 14th Army's leave scheme for Indian troops which was received with cheers. He told them that he had not been home for seven years, hasn't seen his family for five years and that he was neither going home nor taking leave till the Japs were completely defeated. Quoting the words of a jawan: "Kala billi chua jarur kayinge" (The Black Cat will surely eat the Jap rats) he exhorted them to be ready for the next onslaught on the fascists of the east.

ends
Pinwegon, 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 from 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 Irrawaddy 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. The first Jap prisoner captured by troops of the 23 Indian Division in 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 23 mile recce behind the enemy across country.

ends
CAPT. MANI  
INDIAN ARMY OBSERVER  
WITH the  
17th Indian Division
**MESSAGE FORM**

**FROM**

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<th>20 Div</th>
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**TO**

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**For Action**

**INDIAN TROOPS OF MAJ GEN GRACEYS 20 INDIAN DIVISION HAVE CUT THE RAILWAY LINE AND ROAD NEAR TANAUNGGAIG NEAR 15 MS FROM AVA ON THE SAGAING HY-PHEN MYINGYAN METRE GAUGE LINE WHICH IS ONE OF THE LINES OF RETREAT OF THE ENEMY FROM MANDALAY. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION AT TANAUNGGAIG BUT OUR TROOPS HAD A FAIRLY HEAVY OPPOSITION AT NATTHADOW DURING THE...**

**Signed**

**M.I.P. - 324-B-G 923 - 21-7-44 - 50,000 Pads.**
CONTINUED LAST FEW DAYS THIS FORWARD FORMATION HAVE BEEN MAKING A SPEEDY AND DASHING ADVANCE INFlicting 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 INFlicted INDEPENDENTLY BY OUR
PAGE THREE INFANTRY ARTILLERY AND TANKS(.) EARLIER CONGRATULATIONS HIS OFFICERS AND MEN ON THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE SINCE ESTABLISHING THE MYINMU BRIDGEHEAD ACROSS THE IRRAWADDY COMMA MAJ HYPHEN GEN DOUGLAS GRACEY 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