

S. E. ASIA COMMUNIQUE NO. 89

In the Western foothills bordering the coastal plain South of Maungdaw our artillery shelled some Japanese movement during the course of the 31st March.

Our troops have advanced to the South of the Western tunnel where they captured some Japanese positions on the 30th March.

Meanwhile on the high ground between the tunnels hard fighting continues, and our artillery successfully engaged a party of the enemy. Elsewhere in this area our pressure against the enemy continues.

In the Eastern foothills to the west of Htindaw the enemy put in a number of small nuisance raids during the night of the 29/30 March, but these were all repulsed.

East of the Kalapanzin our troops supported by tanks have captured two positions in the defences around the enemy locality on the river bank north of Buthidaung. The enemy still remain in this locality and offer stiff resistance.

A Japanese detachment in the foothills in this area was dispersed by fighter aircraft.

On the Tiddin road activity has decreased. Only at one point is contact reported with the enemy in any strength.

On the Palel-Tamu road the enemy carried out one successful small ambush on the night of the 29/30 March.

On the following day our artillery were in action against the block the Japanese held on the upper road midway between Palel and Tamu.

Enemy artillery was again in action against our troops.

The enemy in the neighbourhood of Ukhurul has made some further advance to the West at the cost of heavy casualties.

In the hill tracts to the East of Kohina severe fighting continued throughout the 30th and 31st March.

Forward elements of the Chinese 22nd Division continue pushing south in the Mogaung valley from Shadzup toward Larban.

In the Fort Hertz area levies pushing the Japanese South along the Sunprbur-Myitkyina road below the Daru Tx river are South of Kadrangyang. Medium bombers of the Strategic Air Force, Eastern Air Command, on 31st March successfully attacked Pinlebu. Fighters of the Tactical Air Force on 30/31 March were active over the Arakan, Mayu and Kaladan areas, while dive-bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters maintained their offensive against objectives in the Chin Hills, Chindwin valley and North-West Burma. In one of these attacks there was a large explosion in the target area, with smoke rising to seven thousand feet. Long-range fighters in the course of attacks against communications and other targets in Central Burma destroyed an oil derrick. From all these operations no Allied aircraft is missing.