

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMUNIQUE No.103

15.4.44

During 13th April activity on the Arakan front was confined to patrolling. There was some enemy mortar fire on the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road between the tunnels.

A small enemy party which had remained in position following their attack on the night 12/13 April was exterminated.

There was no important activity South or East of the Imphal plain.

Small enemy parties remain in the area of the Mishenpore-Silchar track.

In the Imphal plain area local actions continue in the hills to the North and North East of the plain.

Further reports confirm that enemy casualties have been heavy.

There is no change in the Kohima area.

The offensive operations against enemy road blocks near Kohima on the Kohima-Dimapur road are progressing. Near Punsin, west of the Mogaung valley, Chinese troops continuing their operations inflicted casualties on the retreating Japanese.

A successful patrol operation was carried out by troops of 38 Chinese division in the main valley south of the Numma river.

North of Tingring the Japanese suffered 47 killed when the Chinese attacked and captured a position.

In the Fort Hertz area South of the Tiang river our troops continue their operations against strong enemy positions.

In a strike against enemy targets in Southern Burma medium bombers of the Strategic Air Force, Eastern Air Command, on the night of 13/14th April bombed Taungup and Kyaukpu. Bombs were well concentrated leaving fires burning.

Fighters, fighter-bombers and dive-bombers of the Tactical Air Force in daylight on 13th April and on the night of 13/14th April attacked enemy transport, petrol dumps and bridges.

On the night of 13/14th April in the Kalemyo-Pyingaing and Tamu-Tigyaing areas fourteen M.T. were strafed, with hits on five seen. Also strikes were seen on two small tanks and a Bren gun carrier.

In another attack in daylight on 13th April our aircraft were active in ground support of patrols near Kamaing. Bombs were seen to fall in the area indicated by ground troops who reported excellent results.

Mediums and fighters of the Air Commando Force of the Tactical Air Force were active against enemy targets and transport in daylight on 13th April and again in daylight on the following day. In one attack against sixteen M.T. in the Shwebo-Onbuak-Yeu area one was set on fire and several damaged while a bus carrying troops was machine-gunned.

From all these operations three Allied aircraft are missing.

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