

SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMUNIQUE NUMBER EIGHTYSIX

Twentyfour enemy aircraft were destroyed in air combats extending many miles over North Burma on 27th March when a force of enemy bombers escorted by fighters was intercepted by Allied fighters. In addition to the enemy aircraft destroyed six were probably destroyed and several others damaged. The same day four more enemy aircraft attempting to intercept Allied aircraft over Burma were destroyed and three were damaged. On 28th March Allied fighters shot down two enemy aircraft and damaged three over the Chin Hills to bring the total of enemy aircraft destroyed in two days to thirty. Escorted medium bombers of the Strategic Air Force Eastern Air Command on 27th March attacked rail targets at Kawlin. Heavy bombers next day bombed dump areas at Kamaing.

Fighters of the Tactical Air Force on 27th/28th March maintained their offensive against enemy positions and communications in the Arakan Kaladan and Mayu areas while divebombers and fighters attacked troops, enemy positions, camps and communications in the Chin Hills, Chindwin Valley and Northwest Burma. Casualties were inflicted when two hundred enemy troops were strafed by fighters. Medium bombers and divebombers, fighterbombers and fighters attacked targets in support of ground troops in North Burma on 27th March and bombed other objectives in this area.

Longrange fighters attacking communications in Central and Southern Burma set on fire a warehouse containing oil drums and also one steamer. Some 750 sorties were flown by the Eastern Air Command in these operations from which three Allied aircraft are missing.

In the coastal plain south of Maungdaw our patrols were active and there was some artillery activity.

Further Japanese attacks on our positions South of Buthidaung on the night 26th/27th March and on the following morning were driven off with casualties to the enemy.

Elsewhere in this area mopping up continues.

Tanks were employed against one centre of resistance.

There is nothing to report from the Kaladan.

In the Chin Hills casualties were inflicted on the enemy and equipment was captured in further successful operations on the Tiddim - Imphal Road.

/ Other

Other small parties of Japanese are attempting to cut the road some distance to the North.

In the Tanu - Palel area our troops maintained their hold on the lower road.

A small block established by the enemy on the upper road has still to be cleared.

In the Ukhrul area Japanese pressure continues and our troops have taken up new positions.

The enemy has suffered heavy casualties in these attacks.

Some enemy movement has been reported in the hilly country fifty miles North East of Imphal.

In the upper Mogaung valley of North Burma Chinese forces are attacking from three sides Japanese positions on AL Hill South of Hkawglaw Hka river and east of the only motorable road.

Fighting is also in progress immediately South of the river.

Our forces have established a road block south of Shaduzup.

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