

15/3/43. - No. 7

INDIA JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

NUMBER 73

The following Joint War Communique from India was received in London today:-

Heavy fighting has broken out in the Rathedaung area over the weekend. Following substantial reinforcement of their troops in the area a few miles north of Rathedaung the enemy launched a series of fierce attacks against our left flank where our positions have been adjusted to meet the situation. These attacks were successfully repulsed, the Japanese losing many killed and wounded and some equipment. Patrols are active on both sides and several sharp encounters have taken place. Fighting continues.

There is nothing to report from the Donbaik area.

In support of our ground forces R.A.F. bombers and fighters were very active in attacking enemy positions in various parts of the battle area yesterday March 14 with good results. On one operation enemy fighters were encountered and some of them were badly damaged in the combats which took place.

Last night Wellingtons bombed the marshalling yards at Mandalay. Many bombs were seen to burst on the target and some good fires were started.

On Saturday morning, March 13, Blenheims escorted by Hurricanes, attacked objectives in the Donbaik area and that night other aircraft bombed Akyab. From these and other operations three of our aircraft are missing.

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WAR OFFICE