

S.E.A.C.

SICK ANIMALS FLOWN TO HOSPITAL

The following story has been issued from S.E. Asia Command:

10th May, 1944

Sick and wounded mules which have been working with the "Chindits" hundreds of miles inside Burma are now being flown out to animal hospital in India. Replacements of fit animals are immediately sent by air so that the work of the Marauding Columns goes on without interruption.

A veterinary officer told an observer with the Chindits "This is the first operation where unfit mules have been flown to hospital. So far about a hundred have been brought out and replacements made. In the planes the mules are on their best behaviour. I don't think they realise they're in the air. Pieces of bamboo are specially fitted into the planes to keep the mules in their places should the craft have a bumpy trip. Most of those so far evacuated are suffering from the animal equivalent of malaria".

This is what 20 Jap "Zeroes" achieved in half an hour's attack on a Chindit airfield in occupied Burma. The destruction of a few bottles of rum; the **infliction** of a scratch on one man; the setting on fire of a wrecked and abandoned aircraft and making a hole in a light plane. It cost them three planes shot down by Chindit "A.A." gunners who also scored two 'probables'. The Jap failing to get through to their target on the Imphal front had turned round to attack the Chindits air strip. They dropped fragmentation bombs, and raided the area with machine gun and cannon fire.

One of their planes crashed in flames by the actual landing strip.

The light plane was repaired in less than an hour with fabric taken from the nearby crashed Zero.
