

28/5/44. No. 9.

The following story has been issued by the South East Asia Command.

IMPHAL FRONT, 25th May.

If proof were needed of the utter failure of the Japanese thrust towards Imphal along the Tiddim Road it is to be seen in Bishonpur Village itself where the enemy made a determined and fruitless attempt to get astride the road and break our lines of communication. All they succeeded in doing was to break into our mule lines, but Punjabi Troops with tank support put in an attack which resulted in the complete annihilation of the enemy attacking forces today, writes a 14th Army Observer, I visited the spot in a field two hundred yards square and it was one of the most amazing sights I have ever seen. The whole area was a mass of dead Japs, and in the centre a bull-dozer was at work digging a colossal grave for them.

There was no question of trying to dig separate graves, or even of trying to count the dead.

Attempts were made, but after the figure had reached 150 the effort was given up.

There is not much left to count when heavy tanks crush men as they cower in foxholes.

S.E.A.C.