

23/5/43 - No.6

INDIA JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE NO.143

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

Yesterday morning May 22 R.A.F. Hurricanes destroyed or damaged nearly half of a force of twenty Japanese bombers escorted by eleven fighters which attacked Chittagong airfield. The combats took place over a wide area and full details have not yet been received but it is known that four Japanese bombers and three fighters were destroyed, one bomber and one fighter probably destroyed, and four bombers and two fighters damaged.

Our losses were two fighters. One pilot has already reported back to his unit and the other is believed to be safe.

The attack was made from a high level and the bombs that were dropped caused no serious damage. Some casualties have been reported including a small number of people killed.

On offensive operations yesterday R.A.F. fighter patrols machine gunned nine locomotives, Japanese troops, and other objectives in the Katha district, damaged a launch on the Chindwin river and made low level attacks on enemy positions north west of Buthidaung.

From these operations all our aircraft returned safely.

On the Arakan front active patrolling continues.

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WAR OFFICE