

95. *33 Corps : (b) 11 (East African) Division (Kabaw Valley and Chindwin).* During the first fortnight of October, the brigade which had been operating in the Sittaung area on the east of the Chindwin was moving into and down the Kabaw Valley. The brigade already in the valley entered Yazagyo on the 4th October and then cleared the tracks, which lead from the Tamu-Kalemyo road across to the Chindwin, of small enemy detachments. To the north-east, the third brigade of 11 (East African) Division had unsuccessfully attacked strong enemy positions north-west of Mawku, on the Chindwin River six miles north of Mawlaik.

96. In the third week of October, two brigades were moving forward against opposition, one brigade south of Yazagyo and one to the north-east of it. The third brigade had launched an attack against the enemy positions on the ridge north-west of Mawku and, after confused fighting, had captured all but one position, which was subsequently surrounded and the enemy in it destroyed. The stores and ammunition captured indicated that the Japanese had intended a prolonged stand in this area.

97. At the end of October, two brigades were continuing their advance south to Inbaung, after destroying enemy positions on the hills to the east of the road. The third brigade was fighting in and around Mawku Village.

98. *Lushai Brigade.* Early in October, the brigade regrouped in order to stop the southern exits from the Tiddim and Kennedy Peak areas, and at the same time continued its operations against the enemy's Falam and Haka lines of communication. These operations ended in the occupation of Falam on the 18th October, Haka falling four days later. These two places had been captured by the Japanese just a year before.

Summary of Operations in October.

99. *Arakan—15 Indian Corps.* During the early part of the month, there was considerable fighting in the Taung Bazaar and Goppe Bazaar areas with a strong hostile detachment of all arms. It was severely defeated by 26 Indian Division. The Japanese object had probably been either to cross the Goppe Pass to Bawli and thus prevent our tanks from entering the Mayu Valley, or else to establish a firm base at Goppe from which raiding parties could operate.

100. The enemy in Paletwa and Daletme had also displayed increased activity in the Mowdok area, probably in an attempt to mislead us as to their strength in the Kaladan. They had not, however, succeeded in delaying the advance of 81 (West African) Division which, by the end of the month, had occupied Daletme and was pushing southwards down the Kaladan Valley towards Paletwa.

101. Activity in the coastal sector was confined during October to extensive patrolling by both sides.

102. *Chindwin Front—33 Corps.* The advance of 5 Indian Division down the Tiddim road ended with their entry into Tiddim on the 18th October, after strong enemy positions had been captured north and east of the village. The advance then continued in a south-easterly direction towards

Fort White and Kalemyo. By the end of the month, strong defences in the Kennedy Peak area were attacked and a turning movement to cut off Fort White was in progress.

103. Falam and Haka had been occupied during the month by elements of the Lushai Brigade, the small Japanese garrisons withdrawing southwards under pressure.

104. In the Kabaw Valley, troops of 11 (East African) Division entered Yazagyo on the 4th October. The advance southwards was held up during the middle of the month by heavy rains, but subsequently continued. By the end of October, the Division, less one brigade, was fighting in the area thirteen miles north of Kalemyo. The brigade operating down the Chindwin Valley, after capturing strong enemy positions north-west of Mawku, was engaged in the vicinity of the village itself. The situation at the end of October was that the Japanese had withdrawn from the Chindwin River, north of Paungbyin, and were occupying positions in the Atwin Yomas, north-west of Mawlaik. It appeared possible that, when driven from these, they might try to hold the escarpment which divides the Chindwin from the Mu River.

105. *North Burma.* Rapid progress was made during the month in our southward advance down the railway. On the 21st October, 36 British Division occupied Mohnyin, the Japanese apparently being taken by surprise as large quantities of stores, ammunition and supplies fell into our hands. After overcoming slight opposition at Mawhun, Mawlu was captured on the 31st October. The enemy abandoned large trenched areas in Mawhun without fighting, but put up a stiffer resistance at Mawlu, which incidentally had been the stronghold of one of our Long-Range Penetration Brigades during the Spring.

38 Chinese Division, advancing down the road towards Bhamo from the Kazu area, was only twenty-four miles north-north-east of Bhamo by the 31st October.

Operation Instructions issued prior to the 12th November.

106. On the 6th November, the Commander, Fourteenth Army, instructed 4 Corps to employ one brigade group with the object of:—

(a) Capturing Pinlebu by an overland advance.

(b) Patrolling in the direction of Indaw-Katha and establishing contact with Northern Combat Area Command.

(c) Patrolling to the rail/road in the area Wuntho-Indaw.

(d) Gaining information as to the practicability of routes from the Chindwin River to the line of the rail/road for the passage of large forces, including medium tanks.

Leading units of this brigade group were to cross the Chindwin not later than the 20th November and the roads Tamu-Tonhe and Tamu-Sittaung were to be improved to the standard of "Fair-weather class 5, one-way" by the 15th December and the 15th January respectively.

107. Before relinquishing command, I issued three Operation Instructions:

The first, dated the 6th November, directed that 15 Indian Corps, formerly under