

JAPANESE REACH THE BURMA ROAD

ENEMY TROOPS ENTER LASHIO OUTSKIRTS

NEW ATTEMPT TO CUT MANDALAY RAILWAY

U.S. PILOTS DESTROY 22 RAIDERS WITHOUT LOSS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT, CHUNGKING, WEDNESDAY

The Burma Road is in grave danger. To-night it was officially announced that the advancing Japanese have reached the outskirts of Lashio, the western terminus of the road.

Another threat to the vital supply line is the enemy thrust towards Hsipaw, after a rapid advance round the Chinese left flank. If Hsipaw is lost the railway between Lashio will be cut.

Anxiety in Chungking over the latest reverses is more acute than over any earlier Allied setbacks in the war with Japan. They imply the almost complete encirclement of China.

The Chinese Army newspaper Saotangpao, stressing the necessity of air and land reinforcements, calls Burma "the pivot of the Pacific, Chinese and Indian theatres of war."

But, deep as anxiety has become, the official communiqué declares: "The gravity of the situation by no means weakens the Chinese determination to continue resistance in Burma."

This statement may be read as an official reply to Axis reports that the Chinese intend to withdraw from Burma.

If the Japanese capture Lashio they will be only 20 miles from Bawdwin, with its immensely productive iron, lead and silver mines.

It is believed here that after reaching North Burma the Japanese are likely to turn towards India. They may not attempt immediate invasion, because of the approach of the monsoon season, which would seriously handicap operations.

HEAVY AIR FIGHTING

Zero Fighters Punished

To offset the disquieting reports of the land fighting there was news to-night of a brilliant success in the air war which has been raging on the Burma-Yunnan frontier since Monday.

Pilots of the American Volunteer Group shot down 22 out of 24 Zero fighters which raided the frontier town of Loiwing yesterday. The other two Japanese fighters were probably destroyed.

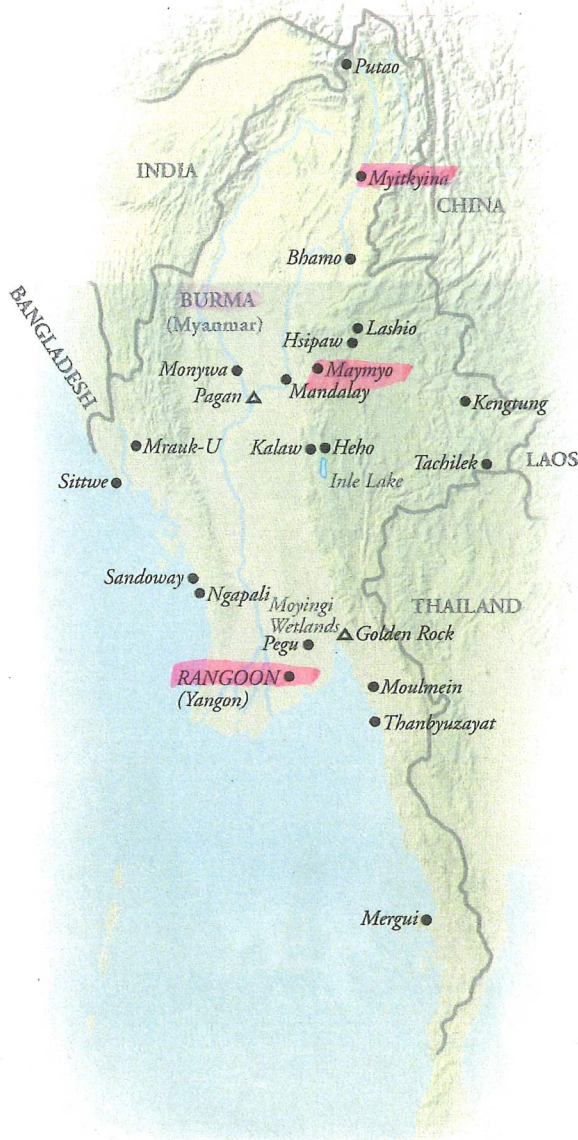
All the A.V.G. machines returned safely to their base.

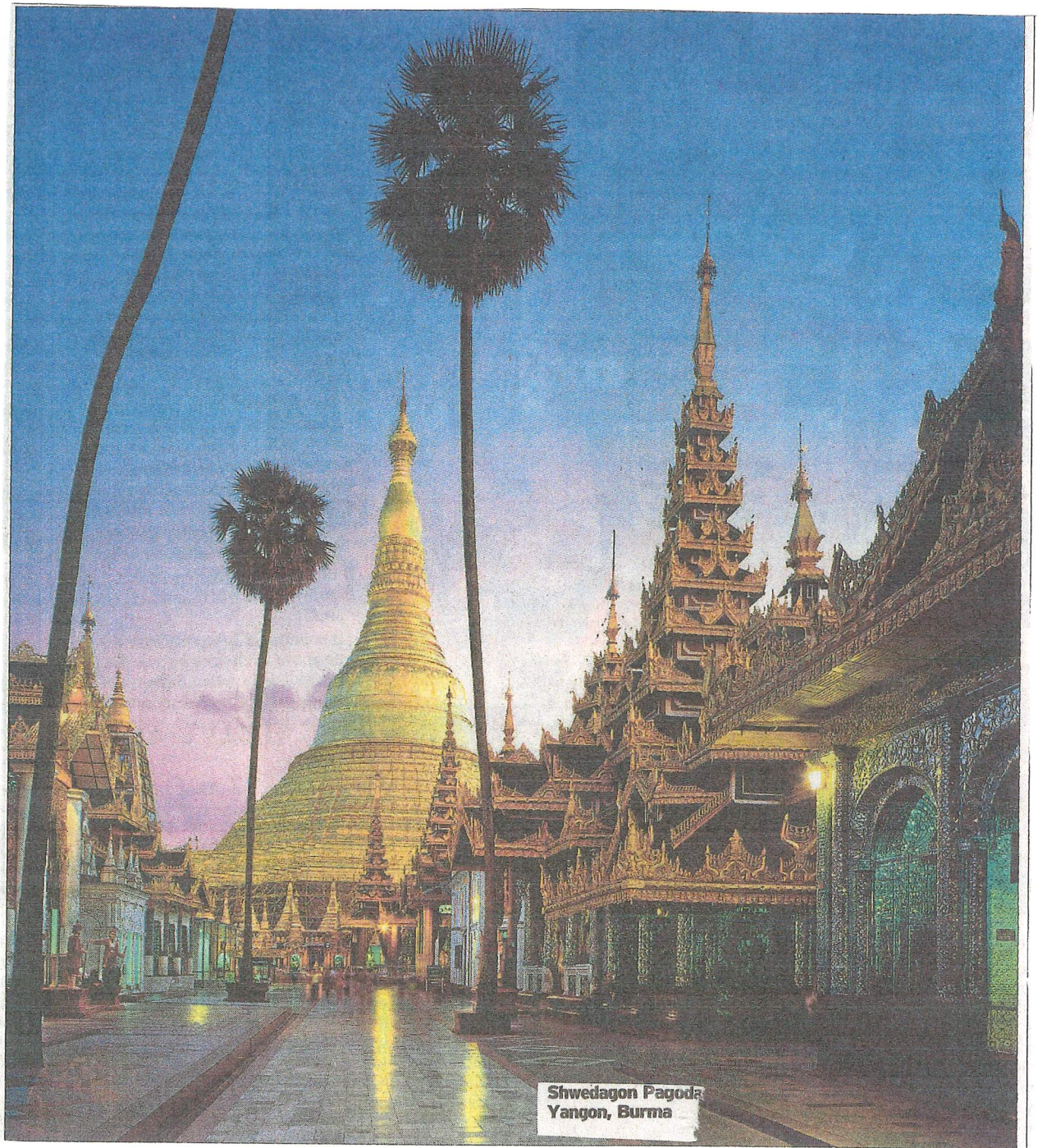
This engagement as one of a series of bitter encounters in the air over the frontier since the beginning of the week.

MME. CHIANG'S MISSION

To Visit Front

It is officially announced to-night that Mme. Chiang Kai-shek will visit the Burma front. She will take 50,000 rupees to distribute to the troops. She has instructed the Chinese Women's War Relief Association in Kunming to rush 500,000 dollars' worth of garments for the troops in Burma.





Shwedagon Pagoda
Yangon, Burma