

New Japanese Drive Into India Is Reported

New Delhi, India, March 23 (AP). —A new Japanese army, suddenly appearing out of the jungles, has driven 60 miles into India, it was announced today, in the second invasion disclosed within 48 hours.

The new force, hitherto unheralded, has pushed northward from Burma up the Manipur River Valley to within 30 miles of the key city of Imphal, it was disclosed.

The earlier Japanese invasion force was a similar distance from Imphal on the east yesterday after crossing the upper Chindwin River near Thaungdut.

The new Japanese force that materialized with such startling suddenness in the shifting Burma-India border fighting was located by an Allied Headquarters report as standing on the west shores of Lake Logtak, 30 miles due south of Imphal. Headquarters said the column had

moved north up the narrow river valley from the Tiddim region, 100 miles south and 40 miles inside the Burma border.

All previous reports had this Japanese grouping safely confined within Burma. Yesterday's headquarters statement said Allied forces had been despatched to "deal with an outflanking Japanese unit north of Tiddim."

Allied reports were vague concerning the progress of the Japanese forces, which were well into India after crossing the upper Chindwin River east of Imphal in the neighborhood of Thaungdut.

Allies Still Minimize Threat.

Allied Headquarters continued to minimize the Japanese threat to Imphal. A statement said that a Japanese breakthrough into the rice paddy flatlands was unlikely unless the Japanese gather stronger forces than have been currently observed.

The paddy fields are suitable for use as airstrips with a minimum of engineering.

British forces, meanwhile, ousted enemy units from positions south and southwest of Buthedaung and improved their positions, while repelling enemy attacks west of that town. To the northwest of Buthedaung isolated groups of enemy troops were being rounded up in the hills east of the Mayu range.

The Allied communique said heavy fighting was in progress as the Chinese 22nd Division fought its way south against strong Japanese resistance in the upper Mogaung Valley.

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149
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