

FORGOTTEN ARMY  
NEARS MANDALAY

Over the Chindwin River began the drive of the British 14th Army, which has now carried them to within 50 miles of Mandalay. Defeating the Japanese eleven miles this side of Kalewa, the 14th ~~Army~~ forced them to retreat over the river. Rapidly the British constructed

~~Bailey Bridge nearly 400 yards long~~

a Bailey Bridge nearly 400 yards in length, the longest one yet put together on any front. For the enemy this was the inglorious end of ~~his~~ the thrust into India he unwisely attempted last year. For the Bailey Bridge it was another triumph ~~of engineering~~ - a means of transporting heavy equipment over what would have otherwise been an impassable barrier. Within 26 hours ~~of starting work~~ the bridge was ~~finished~~ in working order.

The pursuit of the enemy to the banks of the Chindwin River had been a strenuous jungle campaign.

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Hurry-bombers helped to dislodge the Japs from their strong defences in the Me-itter gorge.

8/11  
Thompson

Once over the Chindwin the 14th Army pushed on to another water obstacle, this time the less formidable Moo Chong. Transport in this fighting makes great use of mules. Over difficult stretches the Burmese volunteered a ~~hand~~ <sup>hand.</sup> They are glad indeed to see the last of the Japs. Invaluable in Burma have been the Gurkhas, for whom the worst war-climate in the world holds no terrors. By planes the forward troops were supplied, fodder for the mules being dropped in sacks on to the best available open ground.

As yet no contact was made with the enemy. There could be no question of a swift advance. Five miles a day was the utmost expected, but even that was too quick for the Japs, and at last they came within range of the 3.7s, anti-aircraft ~~guns~~ now used as long-range quick-firers.

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Over a trail of ruin the 14th advanced. In a large <sup>area</sup> ~~area~~ of recaptured Burma the Union Jack flies again.

*Justly aware of the present situation, I  
to present the situation of the  
Hobbs*