

Prod. No. B.54 and 54A.

Date: 18/20.1.45.

Footage: 800ft.

THE OCCUPATION OF AKYAB.

The occupation of the Japanese held island of Akyab has, for many months, been an important link in the Allies Far Eastern strategy. The capture of this island gives the Allies control of practically all of the Mayu Peninsula and bases for the launching of the next offensive.

On "D" minus 1, Captain C.J.B. Jarratt, an artillery observation officer carried out a reconnaissance over the island. The expected hail of Japanese flak did not materialise - and flying low, no signs of enemy occupation were apparent. This information was passed back to the Commanders and the huge air fleets which were to precede the invasion with a mass bombardment were cancelled.

Almost immediately, Group Captain David, accompanied by an R.A.F. cameraman landed on the island to make further investigations. They were met by enthusiastic and wildly cheering natives. Contacting the English speaking head man, the Group Captain flew him back to the mainland to report to the Commanding Officers, Lt. General Sir A.F.P. Christison, Air Marshal Sir W.A. Coryton and Air Commodore the Earl of Bandon, that the Japanese had evacuated the island.

Meanwhile the final preparations were made to the invasion fleet and on Wednesday, January 3rd, Akyab was occupied.

As the invasion fleet was underway, Group Captain David flew the Army Commander and the Air Chiefs straight to the island, so they could watch from first hand the actual landings.

Further Information.

This was the first combined amphibious invasion carried out in Burma. There was no opposition and the landings took place without a single shot being fired. Akyab has been one of the most frequently bombed and strafed targets in Burma. It has been attacked by U.S.A.A.F., by B.24's, B.25's and B.38's, R.A.F. Liberators, Wellingtons, Blenheims, Vengeances, Beaufighters, Mosquitos, Thunderbolts, Spitfires, Hurricanes, and Hurri-bombers, and Indian Air Force Vengeances, Hurricanes and Hurri-bombers. This target has had a record variety of aircraft attacking it during the past three years. Since July 1942 the destructive work of the R.A.F. was maintained so effectively that by early 1944, the town's residential and industrial properties were 80% destroyed.

AKYAB LANDING.

Sequence of shots show:

Air Marshal Coryton with Air Commodore Bandon and General Christison (Lt. Gen. Sir A.F.P. 15 Indian Corp Commander) Directing operations.

Wing Commander J.G.D. Bradley of Wellington, New Zealand, former judge of AKYAB prior to Jap invasion was given an enthusiastic welcome by local inhabitants who knew him prior to Jap invasion of island. Garlands of flowers were hung around his neck by inhabitants.

Note

This film is being cut down

by Parke to tie up with Bowles

material

Box 13207

Paramount

CAMERAMAN: F. O. BOVILL

AKYAB.

4. 1. 45.

Troops moving up from Beach to Akyab. The jetty at Akyab and 2 sunk ships. Houses, business premises, all damaged and overgrown from a period of disuse. The main street of Akyab with the Clock Tower.

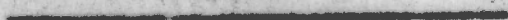
These films were taken before the Troops entered the town of Akyab.

Akyab pronounced ACKEYABB.

All shots in this Roll are pictures of Tanks and Troops after landing on Akyab Island advance on the Town of Akyab nine (9) miles from the Landing Beach.

A shot taken from a Tank shows men combing the Paddy fields for any stray enemy.

F. O. BOVILL.



67
23
140