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1.P.M. 5/6/42
M. G. ...

^H
SCORCHED EARTH IN BURMA.

^A We aren't talking about strategic withdrawals anywhere -
~~In the words of General Stilwell --- "We have been~~
~~run out of Burma and it was as humiliating as hell."~~ That is
~~refreshing candour and we know where we are:~~ ^{but} so these pictures
of the scorched earth policy, applied to the oilfields of
Yenang Young before our troops left, are a consolation prize;
and it's good to see that they made a thorough job of it.
No need to go into the causes of our defeat in Burma; the plain
facts were that we were overwhelmed by superior ~~fixed~~ forces,
but we can give praise to the gallant army who fought a valiant
rearguard action and gave invaluable breathing space to our war
effort in the Far East.

The resistance of our troops in Burma gave us priceless
months to co-ordinate the defences of India and tied up a
Japanese army which would otherwise have been in action elsewhere.

The tremendous ^{pace} ~~force~~ of the Japanese advance ~~in the Far~~
~~East~~ has been slowed down. This blazing inferno of oil is a
great loss to us; but far better that the oil go up in smoke
than be left to fuel the tanks and planes of our enemies. It's
more than Scorched earth. It's a token of the tremendous
cost of this war all over the world. It's a reminder of how
much we've got to make up by sheer hard work --- both now, and
after the war.