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WAR REPORT FROM EAST AND WEST

Our three pronged drive on Mandalay. The central thrust from the North brings British troops within striking distance of Pinwe. Until they reach the open plains, where armour can be employed, bullock carts and pack animals are as useful to-day as when the mongol warrior chieftains fought over this jungle many centuries ago. To-day the skirl of bagpipes sounds weird in this dark green underworld, but Scotsmen marched on Pinwe on St. Andrew's Day in this fashion.

Away to the West in the Chin Hills - American air participation takes Mitchell Bombers over Kennedy Peak to hit at Jap troop concentrations. Aircraft were called in to dislodge the Japs, finally dug in on the summit of the Peak. It was a highly successful mission.

Over to the Western Front where bombs from Nineth Air Force Marauders cascade out of bomb-bays on to warehouses in Reich Territory. One aircraft in the formation is hit from a burst of flak, and explodes, shedding an engine as it goes down. Reports from Belgium all tell of the icy conditions which gripped the countryside during these vital days when Rundstedt's offensive was being broken down. Tanks would often lose traction and slide menacingly all over the place. When 16 tons of battle iron get out of hand there's no argument about right-of-way. Grit and guts have turned the scales on Rundstedt. The great squeeze on Germany is on again.
