

# "OBJECTIVE, BURMA!"

## BURMA 1944

THE JAPANESE ARMY ENTERED BURMA FROM NEIGHBORING THAILAND IN JANUARY OF 1942. THEIR OBJECTIVES WERE SECURING AND SUPPLYING THEIR SOUTHEAST ASIA HOLDINGS IN DUTCH EAST INDIES AND MALAYSIA AND CUTTING ALLIED SUPPLY ROUTES TO CHINA.

THESE COULD ALL BE ACHIEVED BY CAPTURING THE LARGEST CITY AND MAIN SEAPORT, THE CAPITAL CITY OF RANGOON.



THE JAPANESE ADVANCED STEADILY AGAINST STIFF RESISTANCE, CUTTING OFF THE RETREAT OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> INDIAN DIVISION, AND ENSURING THE FALL OF RANGOON.

ON 7 MAY 1942, THE ALLIES ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF RANGOON, BUT NOT BEFORE TORCHING THE PORT AND THE OIL REFINERIES.

**AFTER THE FALL OF RANGOON, THE ALLIES ATTEMPTED TO MAKE A STAND IN THE NORTH, HAVING BEEN REINFORCED BY A CHINESE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

**THE JAPANESE HAD ALSO BEEN REINFORCED BY TWO DIVISIONS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE CAPTURE OF SINGAPORE, AND DEFEATED BOTH THE NEWLY ORGANIZED BURMA CORPS AND THE CHINESE FORCE.**



**CUT OFF FROM THEIR SUPPLY ROUTES, AND FACED WITH INCREASING NUMBERS OF INSURGENTS JOINING THE JAPANESE TO FIGHT AGAINST BRITISH RULE, THE ALLIES AGAIN DECIDED ON EVACUATION, THIS TIME FROM ALL OF BURMA.**

**BY THE MAY MONSOONS, THE ENGLISH ARMY AND HALF THE**



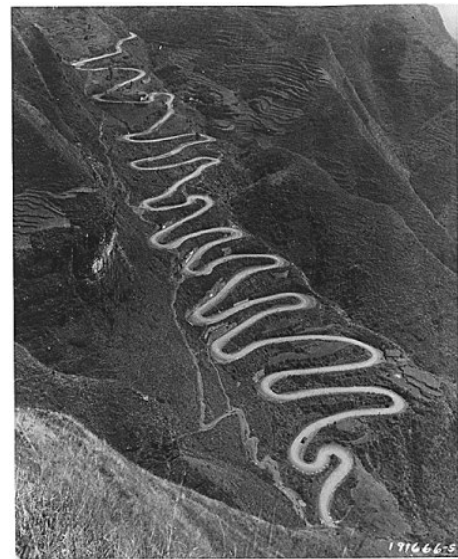
**CHINESE HAD REACHED SAFETY IN INDIA, WITHOUT MOST OF THEIR EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION. THE REST OF THE CHINESE HAD HEADED NORTH, BACK TO CHINA. ONCE IN INDIA, THESE TROOPS FOUND THEMSELVES LIVING IN THE OPEN DURING THE**

**MONSOONS, WITHOUT THE MOST BASIC OF FACILITIES.**

**DURING THE THE DRY SEASON OF 42-43, THE JAPANESE SETTLED IN AND SET UP A PUPPET REGIME IN BURMA. THE ALLIES MOUNTED TWO OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS. THE FIRST, WITH COMBINED ENGLISH AND INDIAN UNITS, WAS MET BY JAPANESE REINFORCEMENTS AND FAILED. IN THE SECOND, A LONG RANGE COMMANDO UNIT OF 3,000 MEN, KNOWN AS CHINDITS, INFILTRATED JAPANESE LINES DEEP INTO BURMA. THROUGH SABOTAGE AND GENERAL MAYHEM, THEY CREATED HAVOC THROUGHOUT BURMA. THE CHINDITS SUFFERED HIGH CASUALTIES, AND THEIR VICTORIES WERE MORE PUBLIC RELATIONS THAN STRATEGIC.**

**THE ALLIES BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEDO ROAD TO CONNECT WITH THE BURMA ROAD WHICH WAS WITHOUT A SUPPLY POINT SINCE THE FALL OF RANGOON.**

**IN THE DRY SEASON OF 43-44 THE MAJOR EFFORT WAS TO BE BY AMERICAN-TRAINED CHINESE TROOPS UNDER GENERAL JOSEPH STILWELL. THEIR MISSION WAS TO COVER THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEDO ROAD.**



**ALSO APPROVED WERE CONTROVERSIAL PLANS FOR A GREATLY EXPANDED CHINDIT FORCE. CHIANG KAI-SHEK HAD ALSO AGREED RELUCTANTLY TO MOUNT AN OFFENSIVE FROM THE YUHNAN.**

**JOINING THE CHINDITS AS COMMANDOS UNDER STILWELL'S COMMAND WERE THE FAMOUS MERRIL'S MARAUDERS.**



**LESSER KNOWN, WAS THE USAAF 1<sup>ST</sup> COMMANDO GROUP, WHO MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TO USE HELICOPTERS IN WWII IN DARING MOUNTAIN TOP DOWNED PILOT RESCUES.**

**THE CHINESE ARMY COUNTER ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH, FORCING THE JAPANESE INTO A TWO FRONT BATTLE.**

**IN THE SOUTH, UNLIKE EARLIER IN THE CAMPAIGN, JAPANESE INFILTRATION AND ENCIRCLEMENT TACTICS FAILED TO PANIC ALLIED TROOPS, AND THE LINES HELD.**

**THE JAPANESE WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE ENEMY SUPPLIES, AS THEY HAD PLANNED, AND THEY WOULD SOON BE FACING STARVATION.**

**ALLIED ARMIES WERE BY NOW BEING RESUPPLIED BY AIR.**

**TO BREAK WHAT THEY SAW AS A STALEMATE, THE JAPANESE PLANNED A MAJOR COUNTER OFFENSIVE.**

**THE U GO OFFENSIVE WAS A TWO**



**PRONGED INVASION OF INDIA AIMED AT CAPTURING THE CITIES OF IMPHAL AND KOHIMA. THEN ON TO THE CITY OF DIMAPUR AND CUTTING STILWELL'S LINES OF COMMUNICATION. THE FALL OF DIMAPUR WOULD ALSO COST THE ALLIES THE AIRBASES USED TO SUPPLY CHINA OVER THE "HUMP"**

**THE JAPANESE CROSSED INTO INDIA ON 8 MARCH 1944, BY MAY THEY HAD STALLED OUTSIDE OF IMPHAL, AND THE ALLIES WERE COUNTER ATTACKING AT KOHIMA.**



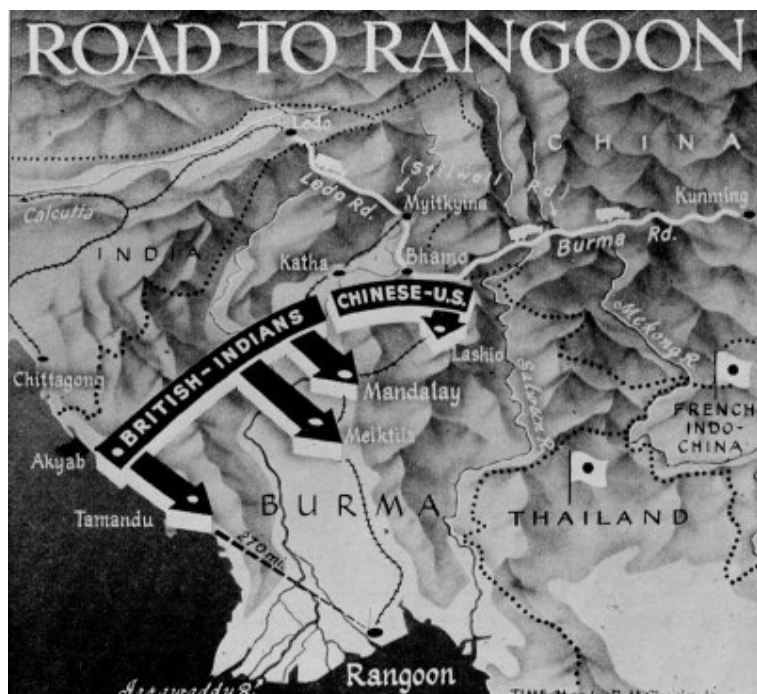
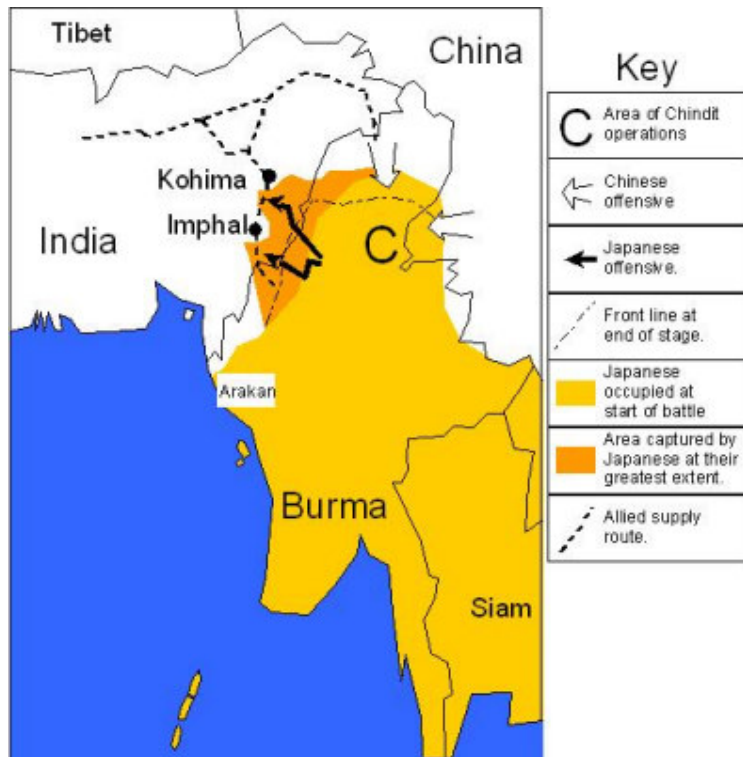
BY MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>, THE MONSOONS HAD BEGUN, AND WITH HIS ARMY STARVING AND LOW ON ALL SUPPLIES JAPANESE LT-GENERAL SATO DEFIED ORDERS TO HOLD, AND BEGAN HIS RETREAT BACK TO BURMA.

THE IMPHAL OPERATION WAS FINALLY BROKEN OFF EARLY IN JULY, AND THE REMAINING JAPANESE IN INDIA RETREATED INTO BURMA.

IT WAS THE LARGEST JAPANESE DEFEAT TO THAT POINT OF THE WAR.

THE ALLIES CONTINUED THEIR ATTACKS THROUGH

THE MONSOON SEASON INTO NOVEMBER. CHASING AND



ATTACKING THE STARVING AND DEMORALIZED IJA THROUGH TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS, IN SOME OF THE MOST INTENSE JUNGLE ON THE PLANET, THE ALLIES WERE UNRELENTING.

AS 1945 ROLLED AROUND, THE JAPANESE, WHILE PUTTING UP STIFF

**RESISTANCE, MADE A SERIES OF STRATEGIC RETREATS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO LENGTHEN ALLIED SUPPLY LINES.**

**THE CAPTURE OF RANGOON BY THE ALLIES WAS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO RESUPPLY, BEFORE MONSOON RAINS CLOSED THE ROADS. BY THE END OF MARCH THE ALLIES HAD CAPTURED MELKILA AND MANDALAY AND WERE HALFWAY TO RANGOON.**



**THAT SPRING ALLIED COVERT OPERATIONS PAID OFF WITH THE DEFECTION OF THE JAPANESE PUPPET, BURMA NATIONAL ARMY TO THE ALLIED SIDE. THE JAPANESE NOW FACED OPEN REBELLION BEHIND THEIR LINES.**



**AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS WERE MADE ON OUTLYING ISLANDS AND AIRSTRIPS WERE CAPTURED. THE CONTINUOUS AERIAL POUNDING OF JAPANESE TROOPS ONLY INTENSIFIED.**

**RANGOON WAS CAPTURED ON 2 MAY 1945, THE DAY THE MONSOON STARTED.**

**THE BRITISH HAMMERED THE RETREATING JAPANESE WITH ARTILLERY AND AIRCRAFT, AS THEY TRIED TO CROSS MONSOON SWOLLEN RIVERS. THOUSANDS DROWNED. THE LAST JAPANESE SOLDIERS LEFT BURMA AROUND 17 JULY.**

**SOURCES;**

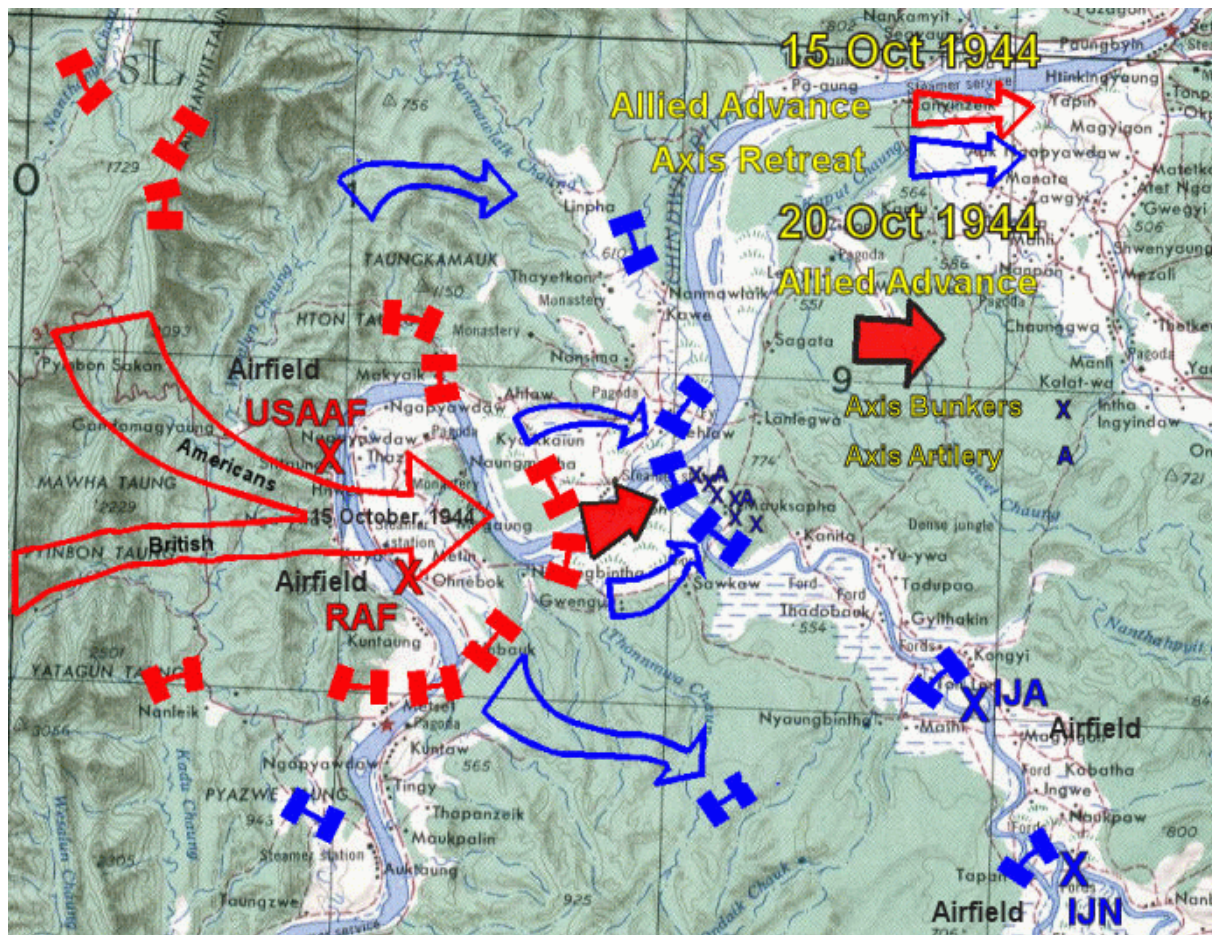
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## BRIEFING

**LOCAL DATE & TIME: 20 OCT., 1944, 9AM, ONE HOUR TO WHEELS UP.**

**WEATHER: MISERABLE. MONSOON RAINS, LIGHTNING, HIGH WINDS.**

**WE HAVE A JOB TO, SO PILOTS, EYES OPEN, AND LISTEN UP. THE CONDITIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY MISERABLE OUT THERE, GENTLEMEN, BUT REMEMBER, THOSE GROUND TROOPS HAVE BEEN LIVING AND FIGHTING IN THIS FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW.**



**THE AMERICANS FROM KOHIMA HAVE HOOKED UP WITH THE BRITISH FROM IMPHAL AND CROSSED THE CHINDWIN RIVER, FIVE DAYS AGO.**

**ALLIED CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS HAVE LAID DOWN TWO FRONTLINE RUNWAYS IN THAT TIME. THE USAAF 1<sup>ST</sup> COMMANDO GROUP IS STATIONED AT THE NORTH BASE AND**

**RAF COMMANDOS ARE AT THE SOUTH.**

**THE JAPANESE HAVE LOST 25% OF THEIR FORCE IN THAT SAME TIME, SCATTERED INTO THE JUNGLES NORTH AND SOUTH. STARVING, AND WITH NO COMMUNICATIONS, THEY ARE INEFFECTUAL UNITS.**

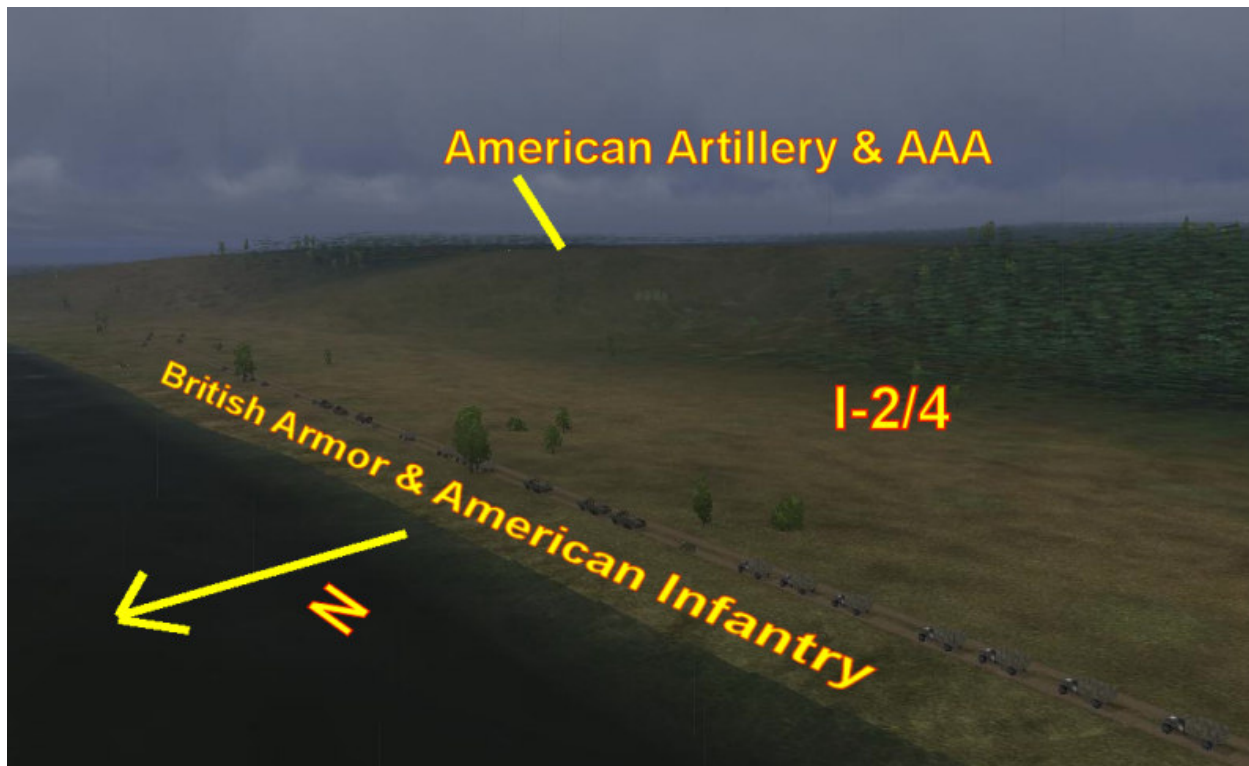


**THE MAIN BODY OF THE JAPANESE FORCE HAS DUG IN AROUND MAUKSAPHA, AND THEY INTEND TO MAKE A STAND, COVERED BY AIRCRAFT FROM TWO LOCAL BASES. THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY OPERATES OUT OF THE NORTHERN, THE NAVY FROM THE SOUTHERN.**

## AXIS (BLUE)

ATTENTION SAMURAI! THE EMPEROR HAS DECREED THAT WE HOLD THIS LINE, NO FURTHER RETREATS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE WESTERN ROUND EYES INTEND TO MAINTAIN THEIR HEGEMONY OVER OUR ASIAN BROTHERS. IT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED!

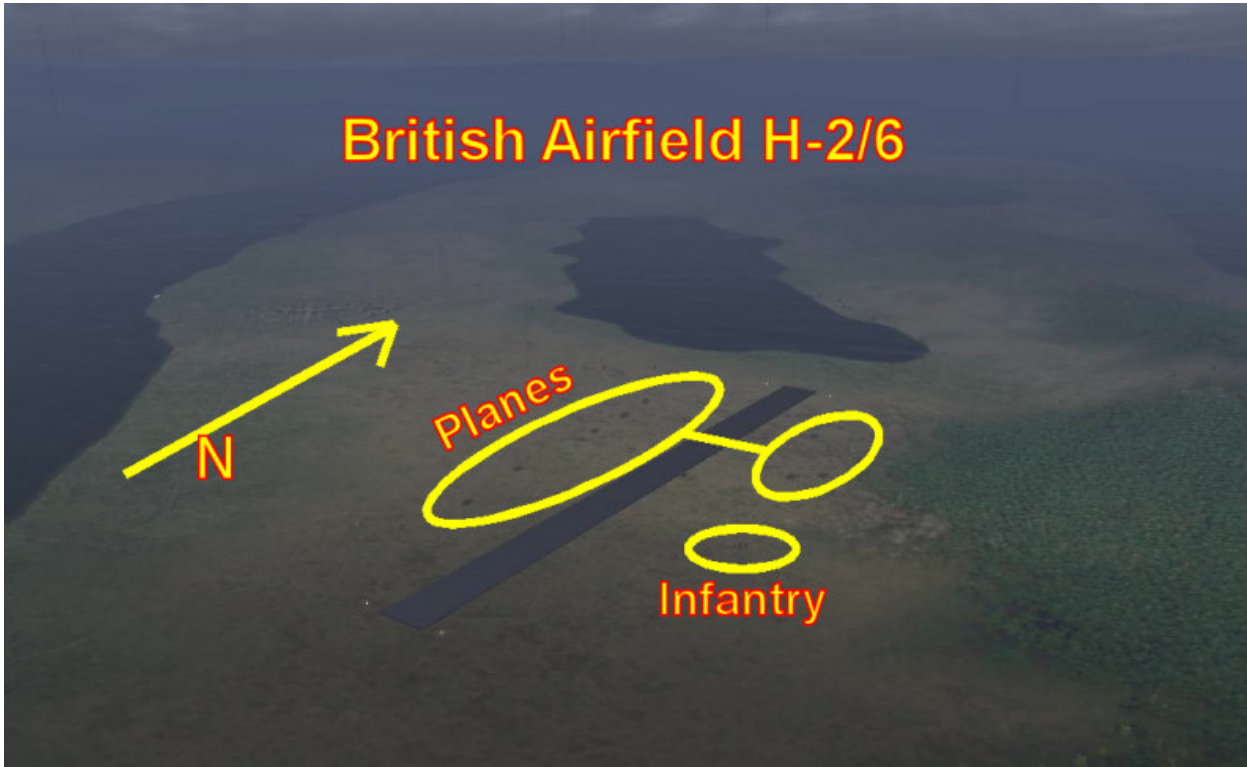
WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME EXCELLENT RECON PHOTOS, TAKEN A SHORT WHILE AGO.



THIS COLUMN IS MOVING AGAINST THE EMPEROR'S GROUND FORCES AT MAUKSAPHA. IT IS PROTECTED BY HEAVY AAA ON THE RIDGE ABOVE.

THE ENEMY HAS CONSTRUCTED TWO AIRFIELDS, ONE IN H-2/6, WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE BRITISH. THE OTHER IS AMERICAN, IN H-2/8. THEY ARE RICH TARGETS, WITH MANY PLANES ON THE GROUND.

REMEMBER, THESE WESTERNERS LACK THE SAMURAI'S DISCIPLINE, AND WILL BE WEAKENED BY THE CONDITIONS.

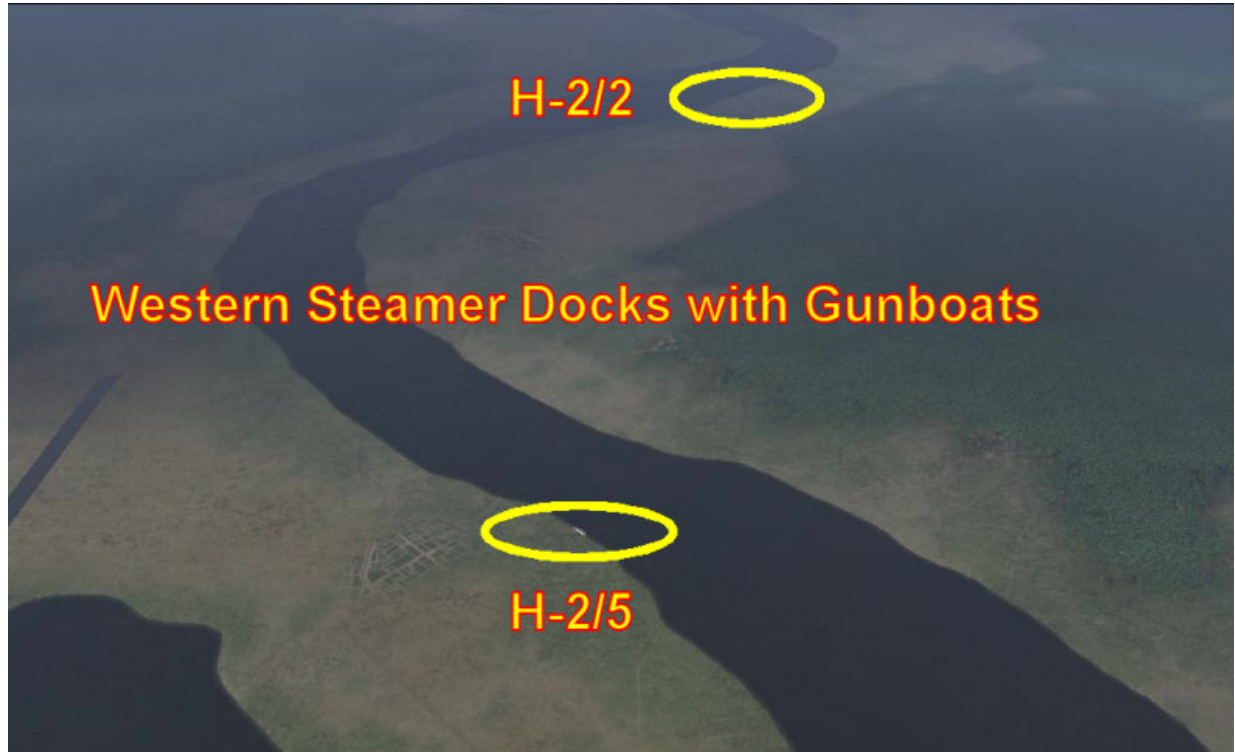


**ENEMY AIRFIELDS.**



THE WESTERN DEVILS HAVE CAPTURED AND ARE USING A PAIR OF ARMORED GUNBOATS TO FERRY MEN AND SUPPLIES ACROSS THE CHINDWIN.

SINK THESE BOATS.



WE MUST DEFEND OUR AIRBASES, AND OUR GROUND TROOPS AT MAUKSAPHA, THEY ARE THE LAST LINE.

YOU HAVE YOUR MISSION, SAMURAI! WE FLY AT 1000HRS.  
BANZAI, BANZAI, BANZAI!



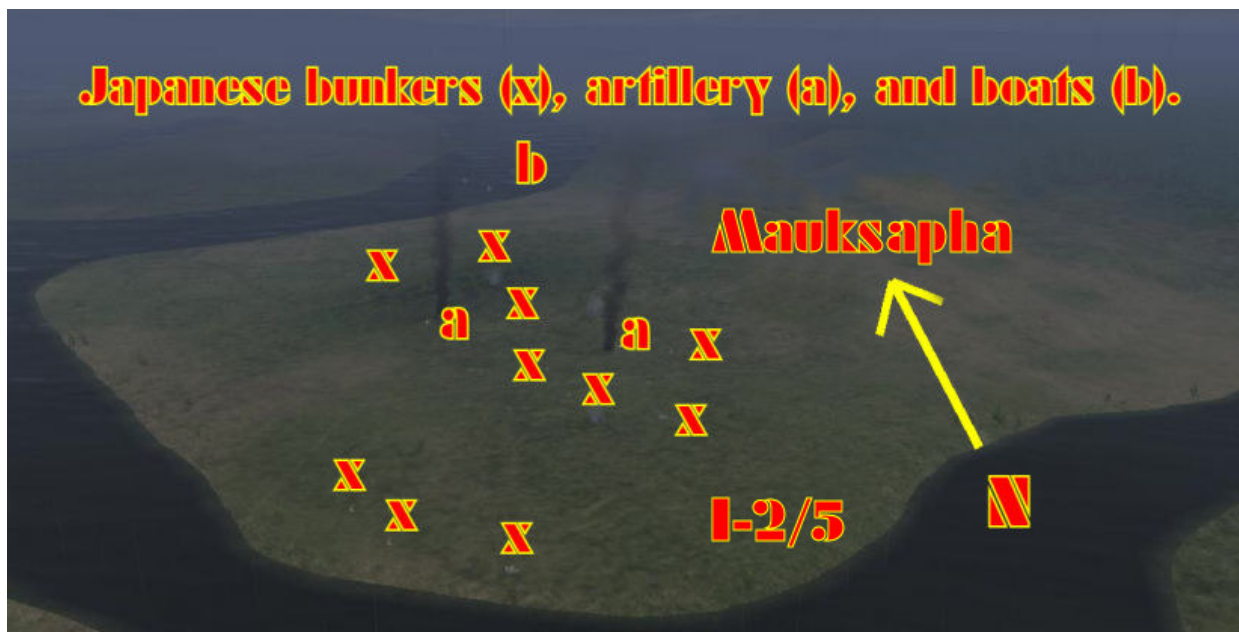
## ALLIED (RED)

ALRIGHT BLOKES, EVERYONE GOT A CUP OF TEA? YOU YANKS, SETTLE DOWN AND DRINK YOUR COFFEE.

GENTLEMEN, WE FLEW IN HERE LAST NIGHT, SO WE COULD TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS THIS MORNING.

NO ONE LIKES TO FLY IN THIS MESS, BUT THE HIGH COMMAND, IN ALL THEIR WISDOM, WANTS TO KEEP AFTER THE JAPS. LORD KNOWS, THEY DESERVE IT.

IF THE BOYS ON THE GROUND CAN DEAL WITH IT, SO CAN YOU.



THESE BUNKERS AND ARTILLERY BATTERIES OUTSIDE MAUKSAPHA ARE THE SAME ONES THAT STOPPED OUR ADVANCES IN '42 AND AGAIN IN '43, BY ALL THAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT IN THE WORLD, THEY WILL NOT STOP US TODAY!

EXPECT HEAVY DEFENSIVE FIRE, AND WATCH OUT FOR FISHING BOATS, THEY ARE USUALLY HEAVILY ARMED.

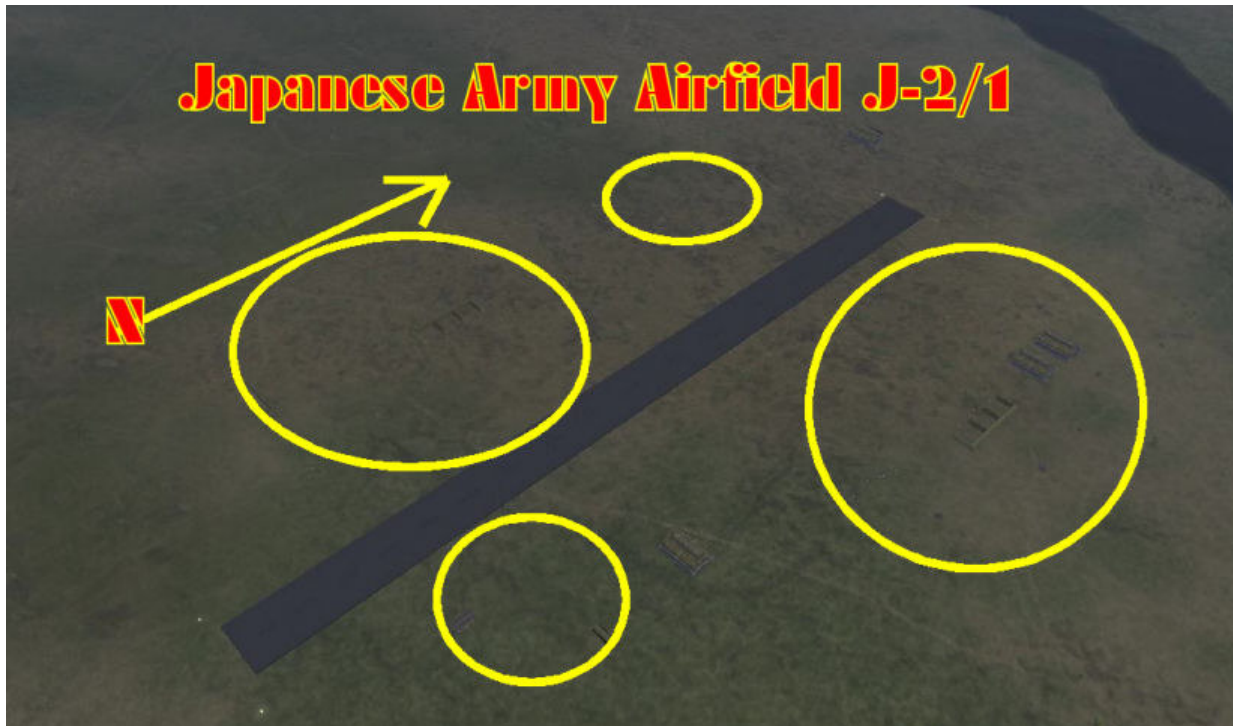
THE JAPS HAVE TWO FRONTLINE AIRBASES IN RANGE OF THE BATTLE ZONE. IJN FURTHER SOUTH, AND IJA IN THE NORTH.

## Japanese Naval Airfield J-1/5



THE JAPS HAVE MORE PLANES THAN PILOTS TO FLY THEM,  
THERE SHOULD BE AMPLE TARGETS ON THE GROUND AT EACH  
FIELD.

## Japanese Army Airfield J-2/1



**IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT WE COVER THE  
ADVANCING ALLIED ARMOR, AS WELL AS SOFTEN UP THE  
ENEMY EMPLACEMENTS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK.**

**WE ALSO EXPECT THE ENEMY TO ATTEMPT ATTACKS ON OUR  
AIRFIELDS.**

**BE AWARE, BE SMART, BE STEADFAST, AND BE RUTHLESS!**

**GODSPEED GENTLEMEN, TAKEOFF AT 1000HRS, LOCAL TIME.**



**TWO HURRICANES ATTACK A BRIDGE OVER THE UKHRUL RIVER IN  
BURMA, 1944.**

**BRIEFING BY = {TTU} = MC SLASH**