

RANGOON CAPTURED

Invasion craft heading inland from the mouth of the Irrawaddy carried the seaborne arm of the double attack on Rangoon. (lousy job, invading, isn't it?)

Mosquitoes swept the Rangoon waterfront with cannon fire, while Jap motor-boats, trying to escape, were shelled by our gunboats.

Jap survivors were picked up. They were a useful find, possible sources of information as to the whereabouts of enemy troops. They were soon on the way to be questioned, ~~and the good news was obtained that the Japs had already pulled out of the Burmese capital.~~ The prize was ours for the taking. The invasion barges nosed in, ~~so close that it was a pleasant surprise for men to go in up to the neck.~~ In the race to Rangoon the British and Indians had just beaten the monsoon; but it was a close thing, for though the deluge proper had not begun, the rain was heavy and the river banks a sea of slime. Burma was being true to form up to the last.

It was a welcome surprise to discover that the port was in good enough condition to be quickly repaired. The Japs had left the demolition too late. Rangoon's mixed population of Burmese, Indians and Chinese brought presents of bananas and eggs to the men who had brought free dom to them.

Rangoon was like a dead city - no water, no power, even the sewer system wrecked. That will all be put right. The city is free again. The Japs are practically driven out of Burma.