

THE BURMA FRONT --- COMMANDO LANDING FOR OPERATION AT MAUNGDAW.

Coming down from India to a forward base on the Burma front--- fresh troops for the fighting in Arakan.

This contingent includes Indian troops and Commandoes with a special job to ~~xxx~~ do on the Maungdaw -Buithidaung Road. It's impossible not to feel disappointment with the progress made in this theatre of the World War, when things have been going so well on nearly all other fronts --- both Japanese and German; but when we remember the sweeping victories of Japan in 1942 --- and when we think how great must be our effort against our first enemy in Europe, we may be thankful for any progress made. Perhaps we have been led to expect too much, too soon; Japan has millions of well-trained soldiers --- and they're all being used on the Far East Front.

Immediately on landing at the forward base, the assault troops are told what they have to do. They rest as much as possible until the time comes to embark again --- and go to action stations.

Now tanks are moving up for the Battle of the Tunnel on the Maungdaw-Buithidaung Road. A slow job, here. Every ounce of supplies has to be carried up by man-power or mule train --- and the going is hard all the way.

*On the route, children help to carry the
dust with water & straw*

It's difficult to film an action in this country of thick jungle; but the first objective is hill thirteen-~~8~~-one --- the next, the Tunnel on the Main Road. One of the over-riding objects in Burma is to open the road through to China --- to join the Allies in India and China --- and every road can be harassed by the enemy from the dense country on either side.

Most of the villages we take --- as here --- have been occupied entirely by Japanese. The Burmese had been driven out; and so when the battle is ended, the village is indeed ^a place of ghosts; in Burma, too, devastation stalks in the wake of war; pointing the enormous task we face when the war is won --- rehabilitating three-quarters of a world laid waste.

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