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By Taking Kunming Japanese
Would Recoup Advantages
Lost in North Burma

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By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 5—

Are the Japanese preparing to compensate for the loss of north Burma by occupation of the Burma Road terminus of Kunming? Japanese tactics recently in the battle for East Asia give many indications that this may be their intention.

In north Burma lately the Japanese have shown in their battle contacts with Allied forces that they may have resigned themselves to the conclusion that they cannot hold out in the face of the superior power the Allies are able to put against them after two years of the slow, bitter counter-offensive effort.

In their thrusts into north Burma the Allied forces have nearly every factor in their favor. The numbers and fire power of our ground forces is greater. The same is true by an even bigger margin of our air forces.

Our supply position is better than the Japanese despite our long, difficult line of communications. The Japanese are operating within the sphere of shorter, normally better railroad and river communications but Allied air power has substantially reduced the Japanese advantage. Two years spent by Allied airmen in smashing bridges, tunnels, rail yards and river boats in Burma have borne fruit.

With a pipeline, roads and above all a big fleet of air transports behind them, Allied troops now are plentifully supplied while enemy soldiers often are desperately short of the essentials of war making. Under such conditions the Japanese cannot reinforce to any great extent nor will they be able to fight on indefinitely with what they have in north Burma.

Suicide Stands Abandoned

Among indications that the Japanese may have decided that their position in north Burma is untenable are the battle tactics employed recently. Lately the enemy has carried out only a delaying retreat. Except at Bhamo, Pinwe and Kalewa in Burma and Mangshih and Chefang in China along the Burma Road have been evacuated after periods of attack by the Allies.

Already the Allies have almost cleared the way to link Ledo in India through Myitkyina with the Burma Road to China. The Japanese do not indicate they have planned an all-out fight to prevent the linking.

On the other hand, in China enemy troops are pounding their way into southwest China. Northeast of Kunming the Japanese are less than 300 road miles away. In Indo-China they have long been poised less than 200 miles from the Yunnan capital.

Japanese forces in southwest China and Indo-China are large enough to make an attack on Kunming. By taking Kunming, the Japanese would recoup all the advantages they would lose in giving up north Burma. It would largely nullify the Allied gains accruing from reopening of the Burma Road.

It would eliminate almost completely the American military position in China, including the main remaining air bases from which the Americans still are able to harm the Japanese considerably.

By taking Kunming the enemy would further isolate Chungking from the Allies. The Japanese would further consolidate their grasp on China and her resources in preparation for the eventual showdown on the Asiatic mainland. They would, of course, greatly extend themselves and would risk eventual disaster, but from many angles it looks as if the Japanese are preparing to take the risk.

Hard Burma Fighting Seen

MYITKYINA, Burma, Dec. 4 (Delayed) (P)—Two American Air Force generals with commands in the China-Burma-India theatre believe that "the Japanese have written off Burma," but that Japanese suicide troops remaining behind must be destroyed in hard fighting before the country is recaptured.

The Japanese retreat from north Burma under pressure from Chinese and British troops extends to the Mandalay area, and the Japanese are reported removing some of their Mandalay installations south to Rangoon. The British Fourteenth Army is 170 miles west of Mandalay.

One of the American officers suggested that some elements of Japanese divisions that have been punished in two years of combat might be going south for a rest or even might be bound for Indo-China or Thailand. The remaining Japanese veterans are being partly reinforced by unseasoned troops recently recruited in Japan and who have received all their training in Burma. While they are green, they can carry out the role of suicide units efficiently.

One American air force officer said the Japanese were running the Allied blockade of Rangoon with small coastal ships from Bangkok and Saigon and that, since there was no evidence that heavy reinforcements were coming in, these ships could be removing heavy equipment and bringing in only the little front-line fighting materials needed for the present defensive stand.

It is the general opinion here that the Japanese are unable to bring in the manpower and equipment required to hold Burma and are not trying to do so. There already is evidence that the Japanese are very short of ammunition.

Allied Plane Lands at Bhamo

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 5 (P)—The first plane of the Tenth United States Army Air Force landed today on the newly-won Bhamo air strip in Burma only 500 yards behind Chinese Thirty-eighth Division troops who are spearheading the drive southward.