

THE BATTLE OF YENANGYAUNG.

erred from a broadcast by the B.B.C. in the "Into battle" series
October 10th 1942.

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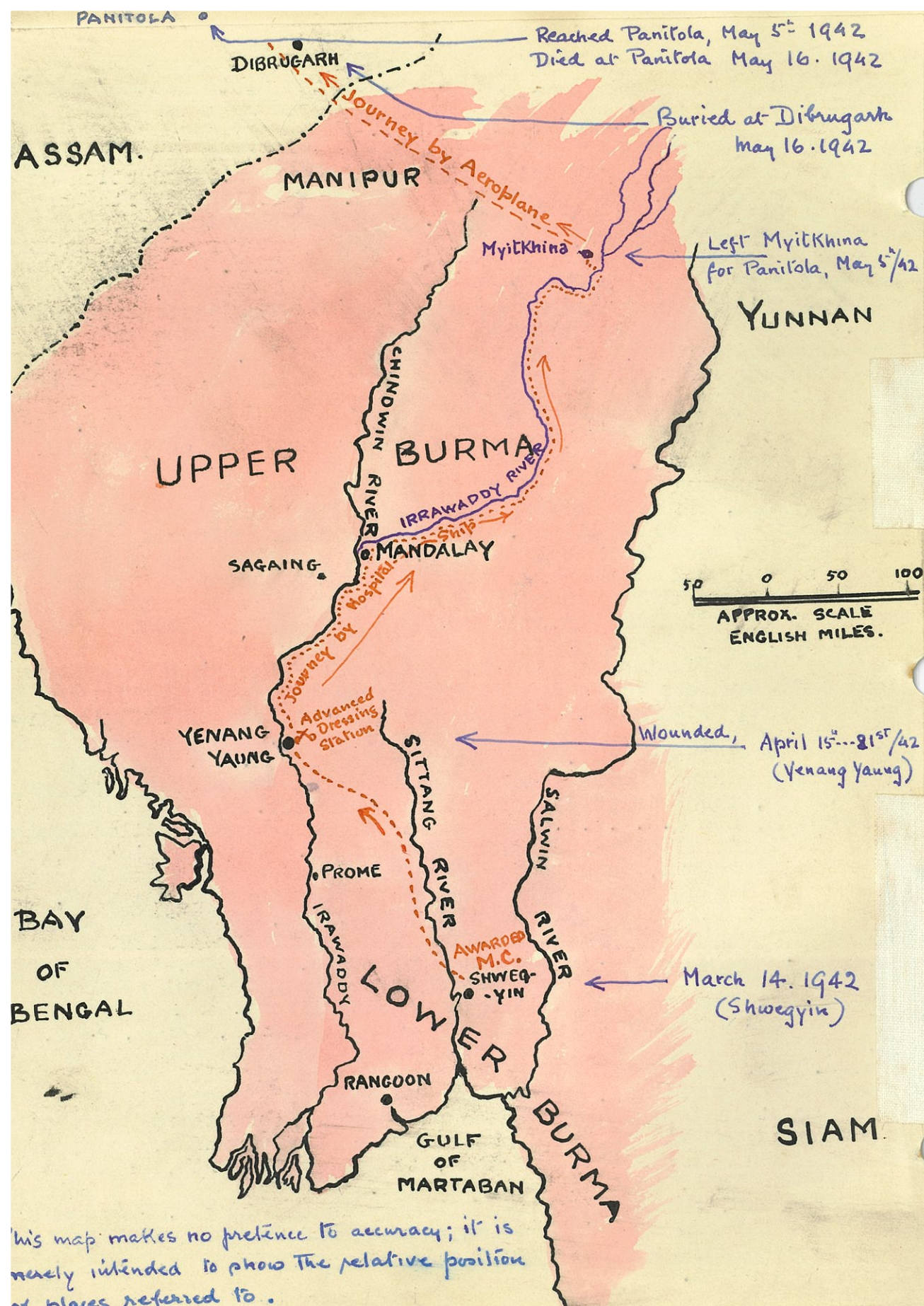
ween the oilfields of Yenangyaung and the port of Rangoon the pipe-
e had been cut by advancing Japanese divisions. Production of oil
come to an end, and pumps were silent. Demolition experts were stuff-
; the wells with high explosives. They worked quickly, for when the
blew from the South, one could hear the crackle of the mountain
eries and the little explosions of the mortars.
April 14th 1942, refugees were streaming up the roads, leaving their
era-stricken dead in the choked ditches and culverts by the road-
. Since the previous evening the Japanese had tried vainly to drive
17th division from its posts at Taungdwindgyi. All through the night
division suffered, and casualties in the damp forests were heavy. But
position was held in order to protect the right flank of the Chinese
drawing up the Eastern Trunk Road, -the famous Burma Road-. Since
oon fell, a month ago, the Japanese in possession of the road, con-
ed to move North.

enemy pressure on the 1st Burma Division caused a sudden gap in the
ish lines, through which a Japanese column infiltrated quickly enough
outflank our two positions. The oilfields were directly threatened,
the order was given to blow them. That day there was some confusion,
no news came in to General Alexander's Headquarters from the threat-
d area. The 7th Hussars with what tanks they could muster went past
enemy to help the 17th, and the 42nd Brigade also went to their
stance.

days' hard fighting followed, during which the King's Own ^{Yorkshire} ~~Shropshire~~
t Infantry were pressed back and forced to expose the Chinese flank;
1st Burma Brigade counter-attacked against foes infinitely stronger
their own in order to lighten the pressure. But the enemy bombers
the sky at their will. The situation of the R.A.F. was desperate,
British Aircraft were seldom seen. Bombing was almost continuous,
even so, the British Forces retreated slowly.
he 15th, the K.O.Y.L.I. came back to a place some 17 miles South of the
n oilfields after a successful withdrawal. "They inflicted", says
official report, "heavy casualties on the enemy with small loss to
selves, having fought with great determination and bravery".
y counter attack lost lives of untold value, but they were not lost
ain for behind the British Forces and beyond the distant mountains
India. Not only had engagements to be won, but time, -time to prepare
a's defences; and so the retreat must be carried out as slowly as
ery could manage and military ingenuity direct.

tropical ants the Japanese were swarming north, three, four, five,
and some times seven times as numerous as those who opposed their
age. They were spread over the countryside in solid moving walls;
ungle and on rivers, on the barren and scorched ricefields, in valley
on mountain top; and for those who opposed them there was nothing to
ut leave pockets of brave men behind to harrass them, to slow them up
then when all possible was done, to slip away North, or if it was
late for that, to hack their way out.

ng the day, the Japanese lay silently in the jungle. They would let
come within an ace of treading on them before they let fly with
r tommy-guns, - the only serious weapon, -except perhaps the dagger,
ungle warfare.



This map makes no pretence to accuracy; it is merely intended to show the relative position of places referred to.

JOHN RUSSELL GREAVES. M.C.

CAPTAIN 5/1 PUNJAB REGT.

WOUNDED IN THE BURMA FIGHTING,

AND DIED OF WOUNDS IN

PANITOLA MILITARY HOSPITAL,

18TH MAY 1942.

AGED 23 YEARS.

R. I. P.

(Lt.Broughton's letter, continued.)

To make a tribute to Buster is not a task fitted to myself, but his loss is very deeply felt by every man in the Battalion. His Sikhs literally worshipped the ground he walked on, and never was a person more fitted than he to lead them into action. He set a very good example by winning a brilliant Military Cross in our first battle. For myself, - I have lost a friend, and, candidly, may I say this, - a friend who commanded respect by his courage and powers of leadership.

My heart goes out to you in this your sad bereavement, and I should like to add my condolences to the many you have already received.

Once again, my apologies for typing, and also for any errors in spelling that may have crept in. Words come with difficulty upon a typewriter.

Yours very sincerely,

PERCY BROUGHTON.

(Received, December 11th/42.)

From the Bishop of Assam, Sept. 8th 1942.

His grave is in the cemetery here at Dibrugarh. It's a decent place, and well kept. It is not a military cemetery, but under the joint charge of the Civil Authorities and myself. If it is your desire to put up a stone or other memorial over his grave you will know that I shall be more than ready to do anything I can to help you.

I must say, however, that the present state of affairs makes it difficult to get anything from a distance, and we have no stone or marble in Assam. What I would advise is a ferro-concrete slab over the grave with a marble tile inset with the inscription. The former can be made here, and the latter I can get from Calcutta. The inscription would of course be as you desire, if you will send me a note of your wishes. Assuring you of my sympathy and desire to help in any way I can,

Yours sincerely,

✠ GEORGE ASSAM.

NOTE. The Bishop's kind offer and suggestions were accepted. R.S.G.

Shwegyin. Crossing The Sittang River.

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is were employed to carry men of the Burma Frontier Force across the Sittang River to launch their successful counter-
on Shwegyin, then held by the Japanese. Although under constant machine gun fire from the enemy on the far bank, few
es were suffered and, as the lower picture shows, the Indian infantry landed safely on the far shore. Deploying promptly,
bled in extended order across the open ground. With their bayonets fixed, the infantry made straight for their first objective