

all the equipment they own including bedding, cooking material, guns etc. Each one looks like an overloaded junk man. 4 men carry certain equipment suspended from a long pole - what they really amount to is human horses. One peculiar thing, besides many of them going without shoes or sandals, was the several women who accompanied their husbands. Passed through some of the finest paddy fields seen so far. Particularly as we approached Toppa. These fields have an interesting reflection surface of the sky and clouds. The young sprouts of the rice have a softening effect, to the extent that even the sun is mellowed so that one can look directly at it. The complete gradation of green colors produce a most fascinating site. To lend more grace to the scene is the tailored nature of the paddy fields as the horizontally conforms to ever natural curve of the mountain sides. This artificial horizontal line adds additional interest to this country. At higher elevations among the sky meadows the air become crisp and the atmosphere clear. In conforming to this environment the people are found to be more warmly dressed with thick quilt-like cloths and leggings. Arr Toppa in evening.

23rd Departed Toppa early this morning - as usual. This place is so named because of its position upon the top of a mountain. The country all around is certainly delightful. Along the road found many trucks and civilian cars which had been abandoned and the nearer to the Salween River crossing the more numerous became the vehicles. At the river crossing proper they had become engulfed and the entire roadway was lined with wrecked and burned cars of all descriptions. They may have been used by the Japanese army or were civilian cars and trucks which had been abandoned when Japs caught up with them. Whatever may have been the cause the waste of vehicles was tremendous. Our own army trucks were frequently found over the edge but most of these vehicles were wrecked because of careless Chinese drivers. They are notorious drivers and you take your life in your hand when driving on the same road. It is a peculiar thing and a chance driver and that is there complete lack of appreciation of consequence where vehicles are always out of control and they use no judgement about speed or curves. They drive much like a child or woman of the states. The country from Toppa to Salween River good and particularly around the Salween gorge. From a high mt you drop down to the crossing and then spent several hours gain the top of the mountain on the other side. This river crossing